

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of Paul's letter to the church of Ephesus, we come to his second recorded prayer for the believers in Ephesus.
- * In his first prayer, Paul had prayed for God to grant the believers the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Him. Today, we will see a similar spiritual desire of Paul for the saints.
- * As we enter this next portion, we want to consider two parallelisms.
- * First, THE REASON. Paul states, "For this reason ..." This is the second time in this chapter that he uses this expression. In fact, this expression (using the accusative of the word for "Grace" as a preposition) is very rare. Of the fourteen instances two are in the of this passage. Verse 1 and Verse 14 are being expressed in parallel coming from the discussion of chapter 2 - that the Jews and Gentiles are now made one in Christ. Hence, "Because of the nullification of the enmity of the law and the establishment of the unity of Jews and Gentiles approaching the God of the heavens and earth in the same fashion ... I was given this mystery (to reveal it to everyone) ... I am bowing my knees to that God and interceding on your behalf!
- * Second, this prayer of Paul's somewhat parallels Jesus' model prayer (Matthew 6) ... Jesus shared that we should proclaim our allegiance to the Father, then pray for spiritual needs, and finally praise God.

INSTRUCTION**I. PAUL'S ALLEGIANCE (v. 14-15)**

A. Bowing the Knee (v. 14; Romans 11:4; 14:11; Philippians 2:10; Isaiah 45:23; Genesis 41:37-43)

B. The Family Name (v. 15)

1. THE FAMILY (cf. Hebrews 12:1 /// cf. Rev 5:8-14; Heb 1:14; Luke 15:7)
2. THE NAME (cf. Matthew 28:19-20; Phil 2:9-11; Isaiah 45:23)

II. PAUL'S REQUESTS (v. 16-19)**A. That You May Be S_____ (v. 16-17; cf. Romans 7:22 (18-25); John 20:26; Acts 5:23)**

1. THE G_____ OF THE FATHER
2. THE S_____ OF THE SPIRIT
3. THE P_____ OF THE SON (cf. Galatians 2:20)

B. That You May Be A_____ (v. 17-19)

1. THE BASIS: HAVING BEEN ESTABLISHED IN CHRIST'S LOVE
 - * Rooted: cf. Matthew 13:6,21; Luke 3:9; Romans 11:16-18
 - * Grounded: cf. Luke 6:48-49; Acts 16:26; 1 Corinthians 3:10-12; Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 21:14,19
2. THE PURPOSE: TO INWARDLY GRASP THE MAGNITUDE OF CHRIST'S LOVE!

C. That You May Be F_____ (v. 19)**III. PAUL'S DOXOLOGY (v. 20-21)**

MEDITATION ON ...

A. The P_____ of God (v. 20)

LEADS TO ...

B. The G_____ of God (v. 21)**INTROSPECTION**

- * DO YOU PRAY FOR THE OTHERS IN THIS BODY OF BELIEVERS?
- * FOR WHAT DO YOU PRAY?
- * ARE WE PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT ... FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND UNDERSTANDING?
- * ARE WE PRAYING THAT WE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH THE FULLNESS OF GOD?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How can we best help each other begin to "think" more spiritually? How can we grow, as a body, in caring about the spiritual needs of the assembly and taking those to the Father?