

Sermon Notes

Themes from Ephesians

“Paul’s Earnest Prayer” – Ephesians 3:14-21

I. Introduction

A. Wrestling with prayer.

1. Questioning the value of prayer.
2. Does prayer work?

B. Text – Ephesians 3:14-19

1. Looking into the text.

II. Exposition

A. Verse 14

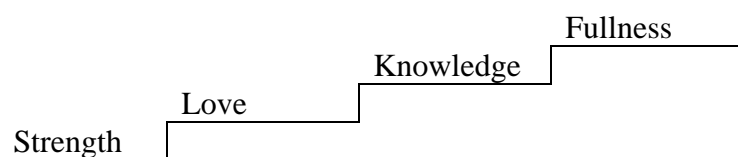
1. “Bows the knees.”

B. Verses 14-15

1. Play on words in the Greek text – father and family.
2. “Every” or “Whole”

C. Verses 16-19

1. Outline



2. “To be strengthened in the inner man,” – Verse 16.
 - a. Reason
 - b. Conscience
 - c. Will
3. Our greatest need.
 - a. An American poet.

4. Verse 17.

a. “Dwell”

1. James Boice

b. “Rooted and grounded in love,” verse 17.

1. Metaphors in use.

5. “May be able to comprehend,” verse 18.

1. Literally, “Made strong to comprehend.”
2. Illustrations
3. John Stott.

6. “May know this love surpasses knowledge.”

- a. Experience not cognitive – (Pastor Don’s view.)

III. The doxology

A. Ephesians 3:20-21

1. Far from the dumb idols of Isaiah’s day.

- a. Isaiah 44:18-24
- b. John MacArthur

2. “Power and glory”

1. Shorter Catechism.

What is man’s primary purpose?

IV. Points for Reflection

- A. When we pray, we must go beyond ourselves with concerns for the entire church.
- B. Remember what Paul prayed for us – to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ would dwell in our hearts.
- C. The power to live comes from Him – all glory must go to Him!