

## A Prayer for FORWARD

Ephesians 3:14-21

### FOR OUR CONSIDERATION

#### The Apostle's Prayer (Verses 14-15)

- According to the chapter of our study verses, the primary purpose for Paul's prayerful posture is for the GOSPEL. Specifically:
  - The Adoption of the GOSPEL
  - The Promotion of the GOSPEL
  - The Sharing of the GOSPEL
- When he prays; when we pray, we kneel before GOD.
  - GOD the Creator. From whom everyone on earth receives their name.
  - We were created by GOD and our creation is beheld of GOD.

#### Emphases in Prayer (Verses 16-19)

- Inward strength from the Spirit -by the Spirit.
  - According to "His riches in glory"
    - This phrase is translated to read "*According to the imaged reality or imagined-realness of Himself*"
    - In other words, that which the Lord envisions and takes form in our life.
  - What we receive from GOD is first rehearsed in the mind of GOD
    - The wealth of GOD's glory comes from who GOD is!
      - Who GOD IS, is reflected in all GOD gives and does.
  - The strength of the Spirit is a gift as the Spirit itself is the gift of Christ to the children of GOD who believe.
- Belief is essential to receiving the Spirit. Without Christ, one cannot have the Spirit.
  - What we do in the name of Jesus is null and void without the Holy Spirit empowering and informing us.
- To that point, there can be no indwelling of the Holy Spirit, if Christ does reside (and reign) in our hearts.
  - *We must make room for Jesus in our hearts!*
- Faith is required to receive Jesus within the heart.

- When Jesus occupies our hearts, our very lives begin the process of being “rooted and grounded in love”.
  - Specifically, the love of GOD.
- Many churches are weak and afflicted because the people who make up those churches have “counterfeit Christ’s” in their hearts.
  - Such tragedies are more common than we think and if the Spirit is given by Christ and we do not have Christ, then it is spirits other than the Holy Spirit that govern what we say and do!
- The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to comprehend those “dimensions of faith” that Jesus taught and expressed with His life as shared by the apostles.
  - Education is important but to be a disciple of Jesus, revelation beyond education, is required.
- Knowledge of the love of Christ is in a real sense, experience.
  - Experience provokes desire. Desire provokes loyalty. Loyalty reflects faith. Faith strengthens devotion. Devotion encourages Joy. Joy gives us life!
  - To be in possession of the love of Jesus (or to be possessed by it), is to be full of GOD. What a marvelous thought!
    - *What could the Church (and our local society), look, sound and act like is enough of us were motivated to be full of GOD!*
  - Godliness transforms people.
  - Godliness teaches priorities.
  - Godliness transcends problems.

#### A Blessing for FORWARD (Verses 20-21)

- It is GOD and the power of GOD at work within us that will make our Discipleship and Witness possible.
  - GOD through the Lord Jesus Christ at work in us -by the Holy Spirit.
    - “GOD, in three Persons.”
- The apostle declares that it is to the LORD we give glory -in the Church
  - Through every generation.
  - Forever.
    - So be it! It is so!
- This blessing is offered as a means to encourage us to trust GOD and,
  - As an asking of GOD to be true to who GOD is.