

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Ephesians 3:14-21

Lesson 6

Paul shared two prayers in his letter to the Ephesians. In his first prayer, in chapter one, we discover his desire that believers *know* what we have in Christ. Now, in chapter three, we find him praying that believers *know* the *love* we have in Christ. He closes with a doxology exalting the Lord, giving Him glory. *To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen* (Ephesians 3:21).

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 3:14-21

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Ephesians 3:14-21 is one paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

Now record a title for the third chapter of Ephesians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, and Spirit

New to this lesson: *comprehend/know* and *that*

Term of conclusion: *for this reason*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 3:14-21. Remember, as you mark the words, *God, Jesus, and Spirit* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them – only those that you feel are significant.

DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 3:16

1. Paul's first request in this inspiring prayer can be found in verse 16. What does he pray for?

2. According to what does God grant *strength*?
 - a. Read Ephesians 1:7 and Philippians 4:19. Record three other things God gives *according to His riches*?

 - b. What does it say to you that God gives *according to His riches*?
 - 1.) What does it mean to you that God uses His *strength* to give you *strength*?

3. Through Whom does this *strength* come?
 - a. What does Isaiah 40:29-31 say about this *strength*?

 - b. Share how you have experienced God's *mighty strengthening*.

4. Although physical strength is a great asset, this is not the focus of Paul's prayer. What kind of *strength* does he pray for?
 - a. Describe someone who has *strength in the inner man*.

 - b. What does 2 Corinthians 4:16 say about this *strength*?

DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 3:17-19

1. Paul's next request is that *Christ may dwell in your (our) hearts through faith*. Christ dwells in the heart of every believer. Yet, there are various degrees of *dwelling*. The New Living Translation records the first phrase of verse 17 as: *And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him*. How does *trust/faith* affect Christ's being *at home* in the heart of the believer?

- a. Conversely, what effect does doubt have?

2. From the last part of verse 17 through verse 19, Paul's prayers revolve around the subject of *love*. What does he pray?

Verse 17: that we be *rooted and* _____ *love*.

Verse 18: that we *may be* _____ *with all the saints what is the*
_____ *and* _____ *and* _____ *and* _____ (of His love).

Verse 19: that we *know the* _____ *which* _____
_____;

3. The word *rooted* speaks of trees; *grounded* speaks of buildings. What happens to a person who is *rooted and grounded* when the storms of life hit?

- a. List words that are opposite of *rooted* and *grounded*.

4. What does Paul want us to *comprehend* in verse 18?

- a. Paul wants us to *comprehend* (grasp) the vastness of Christ's *love*. Write a few words or phrases that express the *love of Christ*.

- b. What is one of the first things you *comprehended* about the *love of Christ*?

- c. How has *comprehending*, in a deeper way, the *love of Christ* helped you to be more *rooted and grounded* in your faith?

5. The word *know* in Ephesians 3:19 is the Greek word *ginosko* – a knowledge gained by experience. What does Paul want us to *know*?

- a. How does the beginning of this verse describe the *love of Christ*?
- b. Paul is not suggesting that we can *know* what is really unknowable, but that we experience the *love of Christ* in a much deeper way; to *know* it as much as it is knowable. What are some things that can be *known* about the *love of Christ*?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answers.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forever more endure.

- F.H. Lehman

DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 3:20,21

1. Paul wraps up the first three chapters of Ephesians with words of praise. What did He say God is *able* to do in Ephesians 3:20?
2. There are numerous Scriptures that reveal to us what God is *able* to do. Choose a few of the following and record what they say:

Jeremiah 32:17,27

Daniel 3:17

Matthew 3:9

John 10:29

Romans 4:21

Romans 16:25

Hebrews 7:25

Jude 1:24

- a. What can we learn from these verses?
- b. Share a time when God did *exceedingly abundantly above what you asked*.

3. Paul closes the chapter, in verse 21, writing *to Him be glory...* The purpose of much of what God does is for His *glory*. Look back at the following verses in Ephesians 1 and summarize what they say: 6,12,14,18.
 - a. Since *glorifying* God is so important, how are you challenged to daily live that will produce a life that brings Him *glory*?
 - b. What does it mean to *give God glory*?

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 3:14-21

1. Paul began this section with the words *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*. For what reasons do you bow your knees to Him?
2. Write Paul's prayer in your own words.
3. Why is it important to be *rooted and grounded in love*?
 - a. What does a believer need to do to be *rooted and grounded in love*?
4. There are many aspects to the *love of Christ*. What are some of your favorites?
5. Share something from this lesson that impacted you.

*Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*

- Psalm 29:2