

Paul Prayed For Others (III)

Paul prayed for himself

2 Co.12 – Paul's thorn...

His primary prayer purpose: spiritual growth, biblical insight, and blessings upon his brothers

Ro.1:9, without ceasing I make mention of you
always in my prayers [Ro.16]

I. Paul Prayed for Ephesians, Ep.1

15:

- True faith... Ja.2:18
- Church in Ephesus is strong in faith and love
...but Paul is not finished

16:

- Paul's constant prayers: worth more than all other riches
- Gn.40:14 ... 41:9
 - Paul – butler: speaks to King for brothers, thanks God for their growth

'Where there was much good,
he prayed for more'

- Some Christians are satisfied with little spiritual growth – they study TV, phone, internet...

17:

- Father of glory – He is ¹glorious and ²source of glory. Ac.22:11
- He gives...
 - Spirit of wisdom – moral and spiritual discernment
 - Revelation in the knowledge of Him [3:3-4]
- God does not take His children out of the world – He makes us different in the world
 - Ac.22:16, contrast: Saul ... Paul
- Mt.4:...8-11 . . .

18:

- 2 Kings 6:8 ... open eyes make a difference
 - We see hope of His calling. Ep.2:12, 13.
 - We see riches...glory...inheritance in saints

Does He receive? Ep.1:14

Does He bestow? Col.1:12

- Universe will disappear (2 Pt.3). 2 Co.4:18

19:

- Love of Christ ... filled with fullness of God
- Mt.16:26, what profit...?
- Lk.16, profit?
 - His mighty power (19) raised Jesus from the dead (20)
 - His power is available to us ['toward us']

I. Paul Prayed For Ephesians, Ep.1

II. Paul's Prayer, Ep.3

[3:14 resumes thread of 3:1]

- Implies submission, adoration
- Ac.20:36, *knelt down and prayed...*
- Lk.22:41, *knelt down and prayed...*
 - ‘Sometimes there is such intense earnestness and such an overwhelming burden that one finds himself irresistibly forced to his knees’
 - But standing was common: Lk.18:11; Mk.11:25; Neh.2
- What about 1 Co.14:25?

3:15

- A blessed family: group united by descent from common ancestor; a family is named after the father. E.g.: Judah
 - Some family is on earth with Paul; some are with Lord . . .
 - Death cannot sever our relationship with God
- 'Every' family is unlikely; emphasis on unity - whole family. 2:21. Ac.2:36

3:16a

- 'He gives like Himself, not grudgingly or in tiny portions, as if He were afraid to exhaust His riches, or even suspected them to be limited in their contents' – Eadie
- Generosity of a gift depends on resources of the giver. 1 K.17:8-16

3:16b

- ‘Strengthened’ – opposite of losing heart (13)
- The goal: strong inner man – our intellectual and spiritual nature
- Inner man continues to exist even after body returns to dust
- 2 Co.5:1, For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens

3:17a

- ‘Dwell in hearts...’ – saturate their minds (dwell in their hearts) to . . .
 - Think like Him
 - Act like Him
 - Desire His will
 - Hb.8:10 . . . 10:16
- ‘Through faith’: the greater our faith, the greater His influence

3:17b

- **Rooted** – image of tree... Mt.13:6
- **Grounded** – image of building... 1 Pt.5:10
- **In love** – not merely having love

3:18

- **Width:** extent. Universal love. Jn.12:32
- **Length:** duration. Eternal love.
- **Depth:** condescension. Unfathomable.
- **Height:** transcendence. Immeasurable.
 - Could Abraham number the stars? Gn.15:5
 - Can we count our blessings?

3:19a

- To know what passes knowledge (?)
 - Wide enough to reach world
 - Long enough for eternal life
 - Deep enough to release satan's grip
 - High enough to reach heaven
 - Ep.4:32 . . . 5:1

3:19b

- That you may be filled with all the fullness of God (??)
 - He fills my thimble with His ocean
 - The creature never equals the Creator...
 - **A Christian is a new creation**
 - Drunk...sobers up...becomes 'new man'
 - Grinch...new heart...love transforms

3:20

- Did Paul ask too much?
- Is anything too hard for God?
- Amazing contrast: Saul of Tarsus – Paul the apostle

Though Paul is asking for much,
God is able to grant far more

3:21

- 1:6, 12, 14
- Recognize His honor, splendor
 - The instrument: *in the church*
 - The extent: to all generations...
- No need to change with the times...

- Paul concludes first half of Ephesians on same note on which he started (1:3-14) – God's praise
- Second half tells us how to give God the glory
- But: even the strong can fall... Rv.2:1-3, 4...

Paul could pray for their recovery, encourage their repentance...but nothing can replace personal faith, zeal, love, responsibility