

Our God
Ephesians 3:14-21

I. Intro

A. Recap family meeting:

1. Ministry continues in a growing community
2. Make a list of 5 people you know God is calling you to reach out to.
3. Building responsibilities: \$850,000 needs to be raised
4. Sunday School classes and small groups: adopt a ministry to serve alongside
5. Our community is growing with people that need to hear the gospel of grace and truth.
 - a) Projected 100,000 people in Sherman in the next several years.
 - b) Tens of thousands of homes being built right now.
 - c) My time in NWA...
 - (1) Not all churches grew and not all are growing today
 - (2) It takes intentional ministry to reach new additions to our community.
6. Pray about plans to move our worship gatherings to the multi purpose building.

B. Back to Ephesians

II. Text

A. Verse 14: For this reason

1. All of the theological truth:
 - a) Brought near by grace through faith
 - b) The Mystery being revealed in the church
 - c) The promises of God being fulfilled
 - d) Glory in trials and challenges
2. Paul prays:
 - a) A prayer of thanksgiving
 - b) A prayer of hope
 - c) A prayer of recognition
 - d) An intimate prayer from a blood bought man transformed by the power of Christ

B. Verse 15: We are all in this together, It's HIS world!

C. Verse 16: strengthened with power...Why? How?

D. Verses 17-19: strength to comprehend that which surpasses knowledge

E. Verse 20:

1. He can, and will, do what is necessary and right to accomplish His plan.
2. According to the power at work within us...The Work of the Holy Spirit!

F. Verse 21: We bring Glory to God by allowing the Power of God to do its full measure of Work in each of us.

III. Points

A. We Bow Our Knees

1. A Prayer of thanksgiving and reminder of truth
2. We bow our knees today and ask God to do HIS mighty work in our
 - a) Church
 - b) Family
 - c) Community
 - d) World
3. We bow our knees in humility, realizing that our strength comes from HIM and HIS Spirit filling us.
4. What causes you to bow your knees?
 - a) A great need?
 - b) A special request?
 - c) A circumstance beyond our control?
 - d) What about...a simple reminder of truth?

- (1) Paul responds with a praise pause simply because he is overwhelmed by the truth he has just written down on this scroll.
- (2) Now remember, Paul is in Prison, and could have gone to God with his troubling circumstances...probably did...
- (3) But here, he just taught some of the most amazing truth about God almighty that he has to stop and bow His knees!

B. According to the riches of His Glory

1. What we get IN CHRIST:
 - a) Strengthened with power
 - b) Indwelt Christ
 - c) Rooted and grounded in love
 - d) Know that which surpasses knowledge
 - e) Filled with the fullness of God
2. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing, and that is something to celebrate.
3. We have the power of God working in us and through us.
4. We have been given a mission
5. We have been bought with a price
6. We have been allowed to catch a glimpse of the surpassing knowledge of God
 - a) We can "KNOW" the love that surpasses knowledge
 - b) We can "KNOW" His great love for us by experiencing it!
 - c) We can "KNOW" His great love for us by seeing it in action
 - d) We can "KNOW" His great love for us by allowing it to work in us
7. To know that which surpasses knowledge is to have confidence in something that cannot be fully explained:
 - a) I know God Loves me
 - b) I know I am not worthy of that LOVE
 - c) I know I am confident in this relationship...by that LOVE!

C. To Him Be Glory

1. This is where it leads...PRAISE
2. Praise Him through worship
3. Praise Him through actions
4. Praise Him through obedience
5. Give God Glory by responding to this truth!
 - a) You are HIS, He is YOURS
 - b) God is for you, and if He is for you, it doesn't matter who is against you.
 - c) You have been blessed with the favor of God, no longer far off and lost in sin, you have a blessing of relationship!

IV. Close

A. Our God Can!

1. He is at work today in ways that are more amazing than we could ask or imagine.
2. He has been providing in ways more amazing than we could ask or imagine
3. We serve in that POWER today!

B. Our God Can, and WILL!

1. He will strengthen us
2. He will empower us
3. He will GROW us
4. He will enlighten us.

[Eph 3:14-21 ESV] 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled

with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.