

Ephesians: Blessed Beyond Belief

To Build up the Body

Ephesians 3:14-19 Paul's Prayer for the New Community

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 be 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.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Paul's Doxology

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 the glory
in the church
and
in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Review

1:1–3:21 Positional Unity of the Church

1:1-23 God's (life insurance) plan and benefits

1:1-2 A circular letter to those "in Christ"

1:3-14 Believers have: **Every spiritual blessing—to the praise of His glory**

The plan, provision and protection of Salvation

A reminder of the great things God has done for the individual believer

All we have in salvation is for His praise and glory

1:15-23 **The prayer for those who have everything**—know God better

2:1–3:21 Steps towards fulfilling God's plan

2:1-10 God's plan (1:3-14) applied to individuals

2:11-22 New Corporate identity

We who were hopeless, separated from God, His promises and His people—have been brought near into a new entity—the Church.

2:13-22 Now have been brought near to God, being made into a new man—entity, the Church

3:1-13 The mystery of the Church is revealed after Christ

Paul explains his role as administrator and dispenser of the mystery to the Gentiles

The church is not natural—unity in spite of diversity is difficult

To show the wisdom of God

Exposition

IV. God's plan applied individually 2:1-10

V. God's plan applied corporately 2:11-22

VI. Expanding on the mystery: Paul's role and their benefits 3:1-13

VII. Paul's Prayer for the New Community 3:14-21

A. Paul's Impossible Prayer 3:14-19

Prayer for Power to Know, Experience and Demonstrate the Love of Christ

1. Honor to God declared 3:14-15

2. Content: Enablement to know and experience the Love of Christ and be filled with God
3:16-19

a) Empowered by the Spirit in the inner being 3:16-17a

b) Empowered to Comprehend the Love of Christ 3:17b-18

c) Filled with the Fullness of God 3:19

B. Paul's Doxology—Ascribing Glory 3:20-21

Application

What does your prayer list reveal about your God?