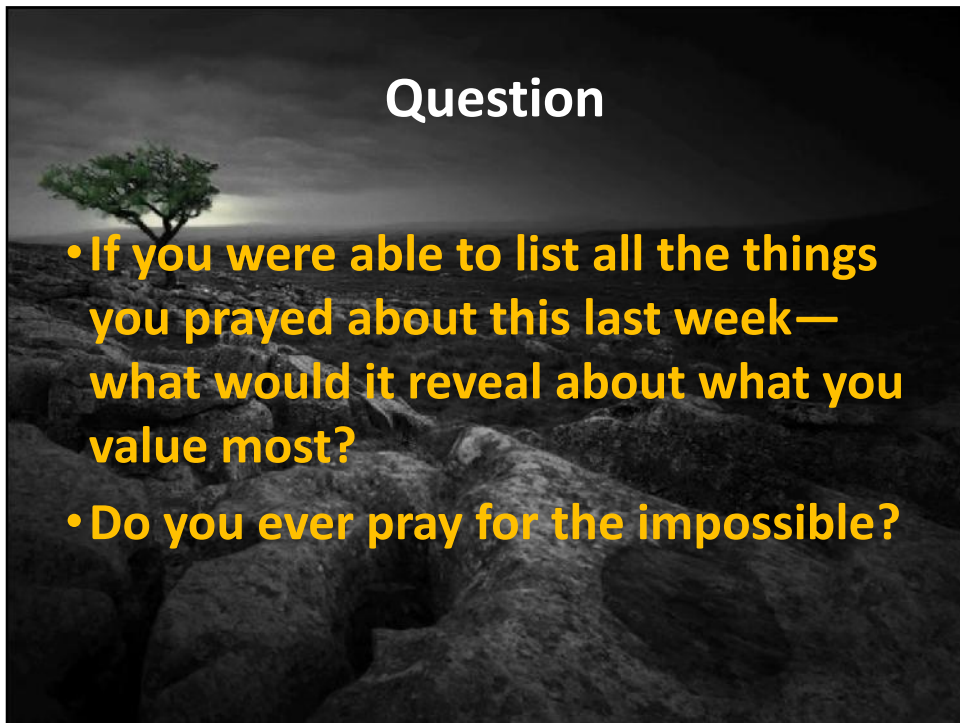


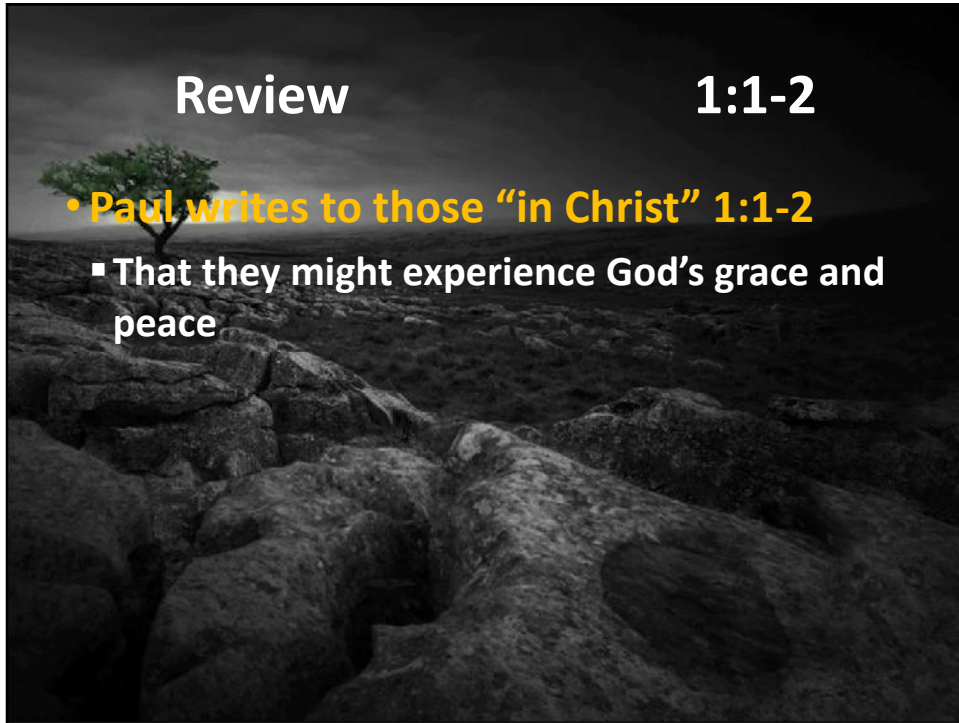
Question

- **How big are your prayers?**
- **Do you pray small or big prayers?**



Question

- **If you were able to list all the things you prayed about this last week— what would it reveal about what you value most?**
- **Do you ever pray for the impossible?**



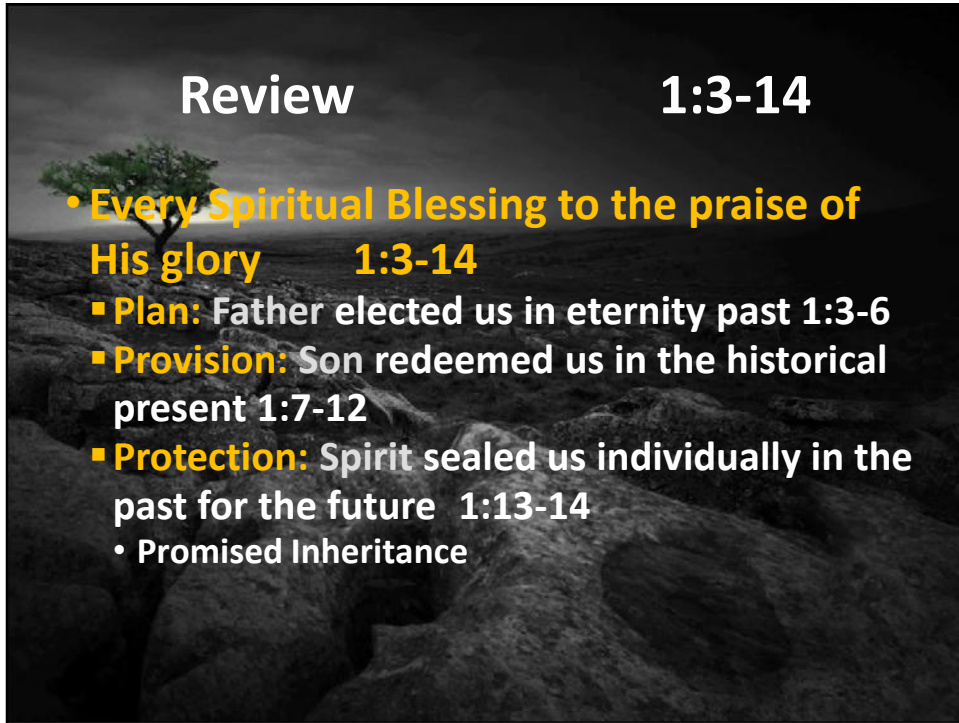
Review **1:1-2**

- **Paul writes to those “in Christ” 1:1-2**
 - That they might experience God’s grace and peace



Review **1:3-14**

- **Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14**
 - **Plan:** Father elected us in eternity past 1:3-6
 - To be holy and blameless adopted sons
 - **Provision:** Son redeemed us in the historical present 1:7-12
 - Superabounding grace
 - Redeemed, Forgiven, Informed and Inheritance



Review **1:3-14**

- **Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14**
 - **Plan:** Father elected us in eternity past 1:3-6
 - **Provision:** Son redeemed us in the historical present 1:7-12
 - **Protection:** Spirit sealed us individually in the past for the future 1:13-14
 - Promised Inheritance



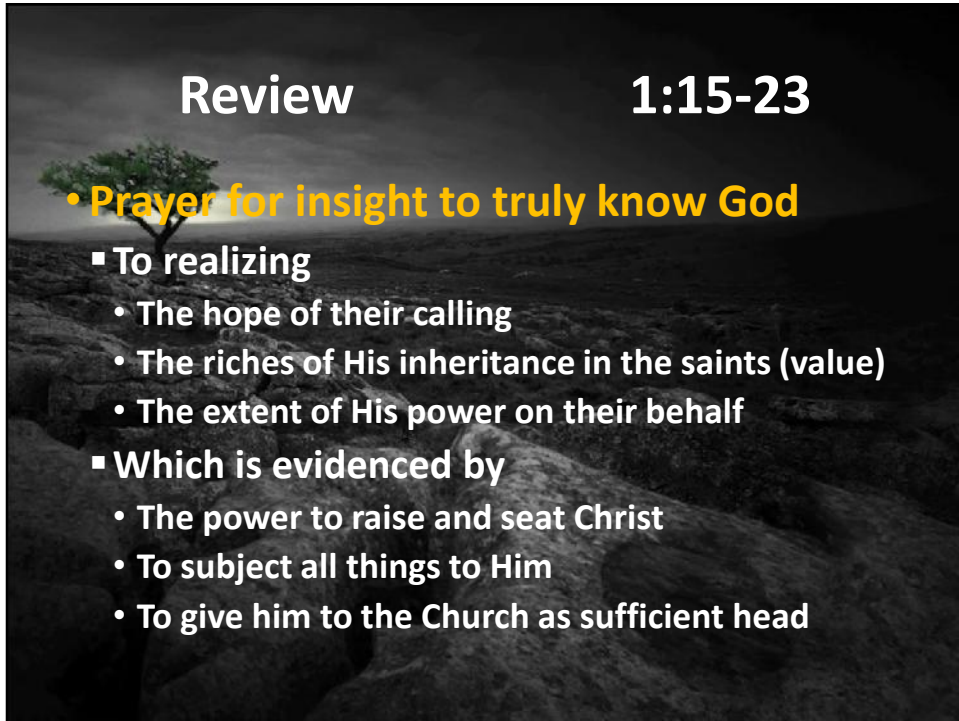
Review **1:1-14**

Paul writes to those who are “in Christ” 1:1-2

About: Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14

- Plan, Provision and Protection of Salvation

A reminder of the great things God has done for believers individually.



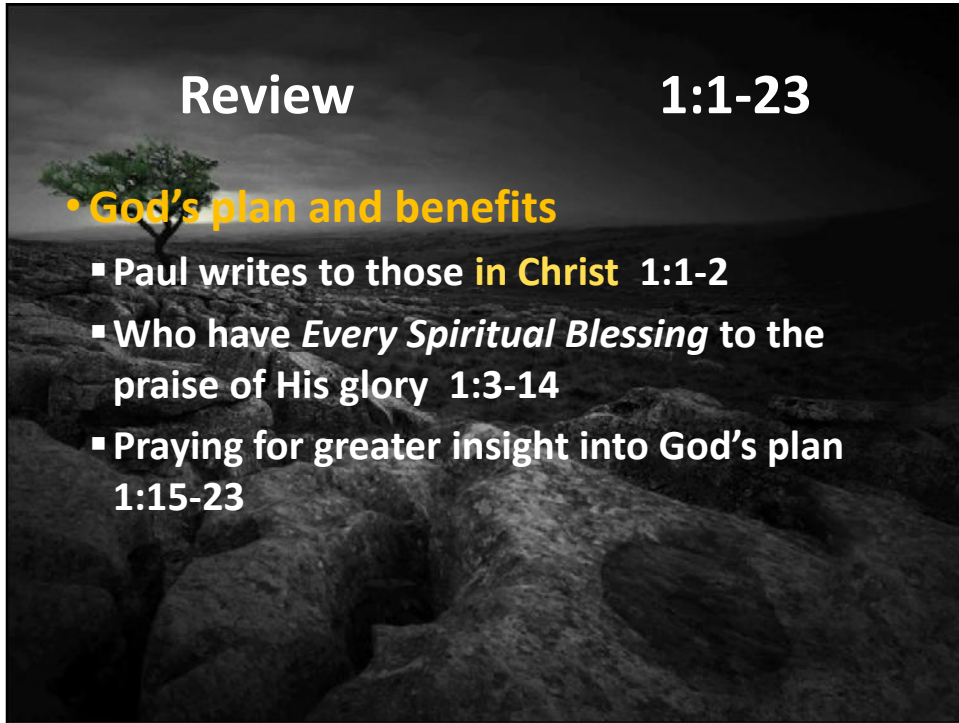
Review **1:15-23**

- **Prayer for insight to truly know God**
 - To realizing
 - The hope of their calling
 - The riches of His inheritance in the saints (value)
 - The extent of His power on their behalf
 - Which is evidenced by
 - The power to raise and seat Christ
 - To subject all things to Him
 - To give him to the Church as sufficient head



Review **1:1-23**

- **God's plan and benefits** **1:1-23**
 - Paul writes to those in Christ 1:1-2
 - Who have Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14
 - Praying for greater insight into God's plan 1:15-23
- **Steps towards fulfilling God's plan** **2:1—3:21**
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)



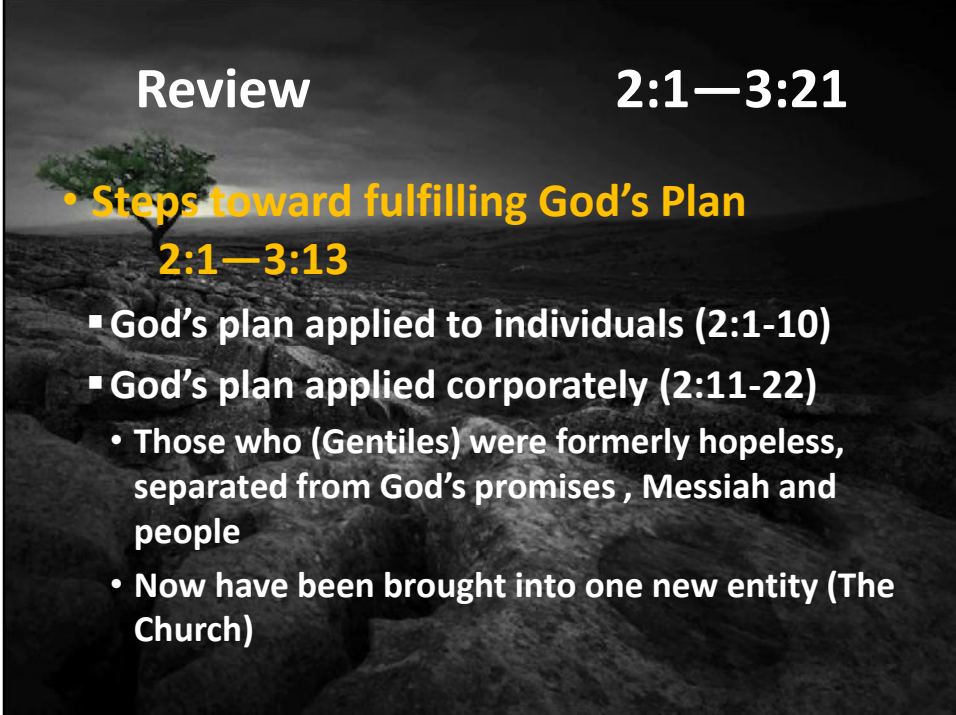
Review **1:1-23**

- **God's plan and benefits**
 - Paul writes to those **in Christ** 1:1-2
 - Who have *Every Spiritual Blessing* to the praise of His glory 1:3-14
 - Praying for greater insight into God's plan 1:15-23



Review **2:1—3:21**

- **Steps towards fulfilling God's plan 2:1—3:21**
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)
 - Everyman's condition apart from God 2:1-3
 - "But God"
 - ◇ Rich in mercy
 - ◇ Based on His grace provided a relationship with Him
 - ◇ Obtained through faith
 - ◇ For the purpose of revealing God's grace through actions



Review **2:1—3:21**

- **Steps toward fulfilling God's Plan**
2:1—3:13
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)
 - God's plan applied corporately (2:11-22)
 - Those who (Gentiles) were formerly hopeless, separated from God's promises, Messiah and people
 - Now have been brought into one new entity (The Church)



Review **2:1—3:21**

- **Steps toward fulfilling God's Plan** **2:1—3:13**
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)
 - God's plan applied corporately (2:11-22)
 - **Expanding on the mystery: corporate identity (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—even to the cosmic powers

Context: Big Picture

Paul's first prayer (1:15-23) for believers was to know God intimately and experience His power, and his second prayer (3:14-21) is for believers to know the power of God's love.

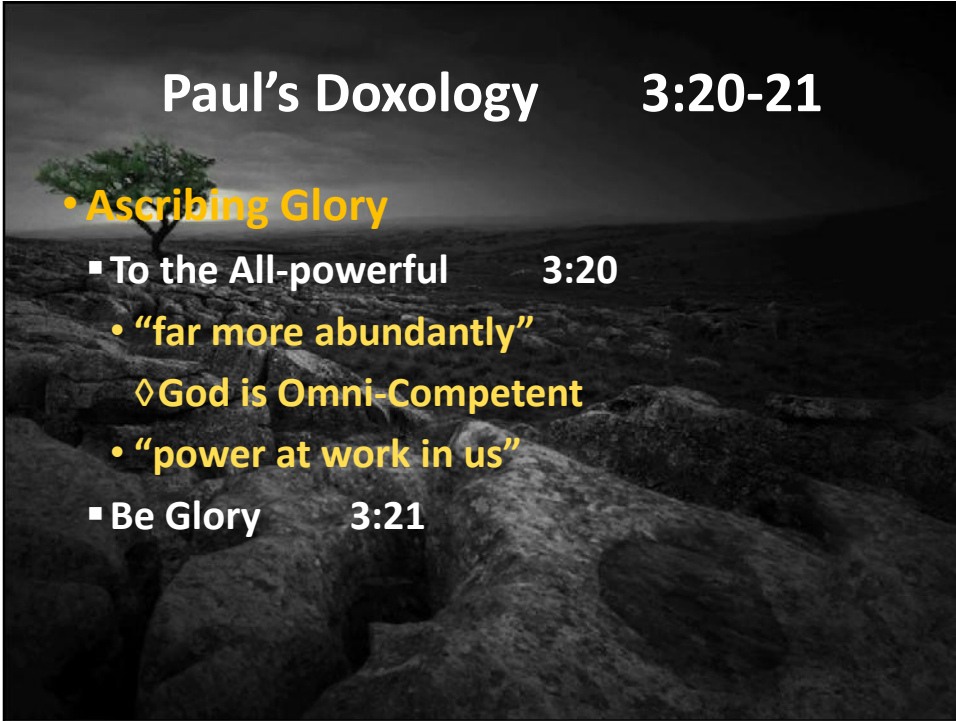
Paul's Prayer for the New Community 3:14-21

- **Paul's Impossible Prayer 3:14-19**
 - Honor to God declared 3:14-15
 - "for this reason"
 - ◇ The salvation and privileges described in ch 2
 - Focus: the Prayer is to the sovereign God and to the cosmic nature of His control

Content of Prayer 3:16-19

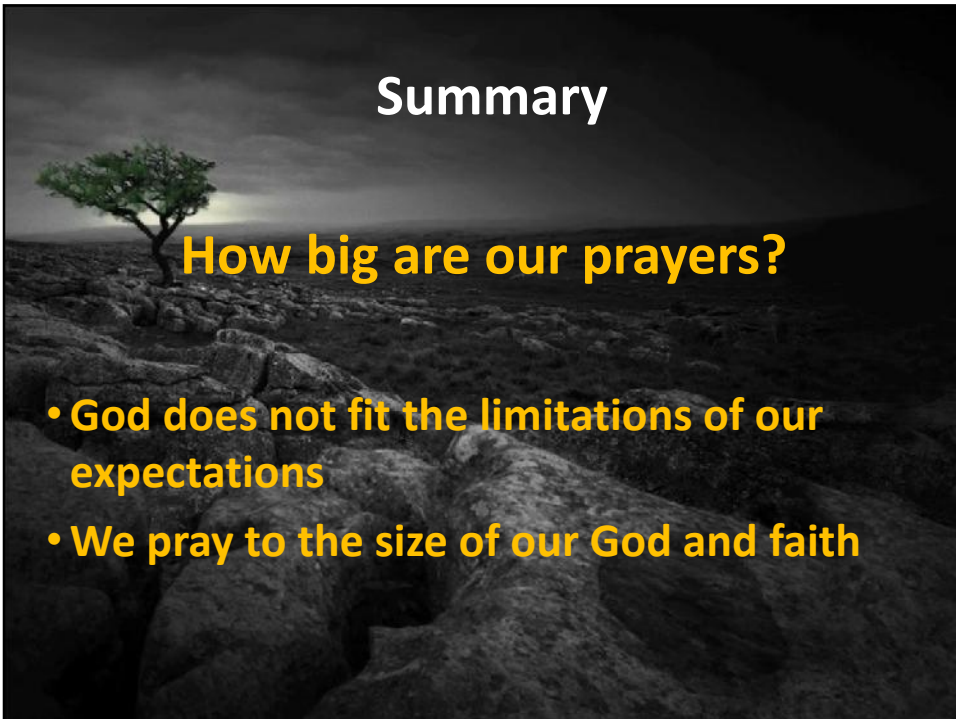
- Empowered by the Spirit in the inner being 3:16-17a
 - **Big Prayer—Personally Applied**
- Empowered to Comprehend the Love of Christ 3:17b-18
 - **Intimate understanding and experience of Christ surpassing love**
- Filled with the Fullness of God 3:19
 - **All consume by God—Spiritual Maturity**





Paul's Doxology 3:20-21

- **Ascribing Glory**
 - **To the All-powerful 3:20**
 - **"far more abundantly"**
 - ◇ **God is Omni-Competent**
 - **"power at work in us"**
 - **Be Glory 3:21**



Summary

How big are our prayers?

- **God does not fit the limitations of our expectations**
- **We pray to the size of our God and faith**