



Christ Over All Series: Part 7: Christ Over Our Prayer, Part 2, Ephesians 3:14-21
Mike Halpin ~ March 19, 2017

Intro: "Sandlot" What's a Baby Ruth?

It's one thing to have something, but it's often quite another thing to really know the value and worth of that thing.

The real question is:

- Do we know what is ours in Christ?
- Do we know the value of what is ours in Christ?
- Is our knowledge having its intended effect of reproducing in us the love of Christ such that the fullness of God in Christ, by the Spirit is filling us up, to God's glory?

Text: Ephesians 3:14–21

Pew Bible P 977

I. Paul Prays—

- Acts 20:36

Our posture can be part of an attitude of humility.

Father = pater, and "family"= patria; all earthly families trace back to Adam and then to God.

Paul prays in the way you usually see in Scripture: to the Father, through the Son, and by the Spirit.

Paul's prayer is based on what God has already done for us in Christ, but focuses on us being able to appreciate the good of those gifts already given and the ends to which they should lead us.

You WERE:

- Distant from God and God's people
- Without God and without hope

But now in Christ You ARE:

1. Brought near to God by Christ's blood
2. In direct access to God the Father by the Spirit
3. Citizens of the city of God
4. Holy, like God himself is holy, without fault, in Christ
5. Children in God's household and family
6. Part of the new Temple of God

As Paul thinks about what every believer in Christ has he falls down in prayer, again, ecstatic over what his fellow Christians have, but asking that they know the value of what they have, so that Christ in us fulfills God's ultimate purposes.

II. Prayers Progression & Goals—

There's a progression in this prayer that leads to God's goals for us...

1. God filling us up w/ Himself
2. God's mystery in Christ bringing God glory

- Verse 16, strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

- Strengthened, So that—
 - ◇ Verse 17, Christ may dwell in your hearts through continued faith

- Strengthened, so Christ dwells front and center in us, So that—
 - ◇ Verse 17, You will be rooted and grounded in love

- Strengthened, so Christ dwells front and center in us, so we live out of the love of Christ, So that—
 - ◇ Verse 18, strength to comprehend ... V 19, to know the immeasurable nature of the love of Christ

- Strengthened, so Christ dwells front and center in us, so we live out of the love of Christ, so we have strength to know the love of Christ, So that—
 - ◇ Verse 19, you may be filled up w/ the fullness of God himself.

- John 17:3

- Revelation 3:14–22
 1. Strengthened by the Spirit
 2. So that our heart and will are Christ's home
 3. So that we grow from and to the love of Christ
 4. So that we have strength to know the love of Christ
 5. So that we are filled up w/ the very life and love of God Himself.

III. To The Glory of God—

Eph. 3:20–21 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.

When we see the value of what God has given us in Christ, the things Paul was praying about, it leads to thanksgiving, praise, and worship.