

## Praying for you...again Ephesians 3:14-21

### INTRODUCTION

Please turn in your Bible to **Eph 3:14-21**. **I don't know about you...but prayer can be challenging. Amen?** Developing a consistent, purposeful, meaningful prayer life is easier said than done. If this is true in your life, you're not alone. **This is why the prayer that we have before us today is so important. We have before us a prayer that can teach us how to pray.**

**This is an unusual prayer in some respects. (1) Paul doesn't pray for anything about the circumstances of the people that he's praying about.** There's nothing wrong with praying about circumstances, of course, but Paul teaches us that there's something even bigger. **Most of us think that if our circumstances changed, then we would change.** But Paul knows that circumstances don't make us who we are. If Paul's prayer is answered for us, then we can truly change, even if the world around us stays completely the same.

**(2) This prayer is also unusual in that it's both theological and practical.** Most of us have developed a healthy fear of theologians. It's not completely our fault. We've heard enough pastors and professors talk about theology to know that theological talk can be a good cure for insomnia. **We can almost feel our eyes glazing over.** But Paul knows that there's nothing more practical than good theology. So, we're going to pray a prayer that's steeped in theology, and yet is all about real change, change that will affect us in the deepest parts of our lives.

For this morning, we will study this portion of God's word under two headings:

### **I. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ (3:14-19)**

To better understand this section, let's ask and answer two questions:

**A. \_\_\_\_\_ does Paul pray? (3:14-15)**

**1. The marvelous \_\_\_\_\_ of God's word (revelation) (3:14)**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ in the loving care of a heavenly Father (3:15)**

Why does Paul pray? because of two realities: **first, the sublime truths of God's Word, and second, the soul-healing Fatherhood under which he rested.**

*This realization now springs forth in three major petitions for the church at Ephesus and for you and me. Please note...*

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ does Paul pray? (3:16-19)**

1. Paul prays for \_\_\_\_\_ (3:16-17a)

2. Paul prays for \_\_\_\_\_ (3:17b-19a)

3. Paul prays for \_\_\_\_\_ (3:19b)

**II. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20-21)**

**A. He reminds us that God is able to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**B. He reminds us that God is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ than we ask.**

**C. He reminds us that God is able to do even more than we can \_\_\_\_\_.**

### **CONCLUSION**

What can we take with us this morning? I leave you with two thoughts as we prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper. As I reflect on these verses,

**1. I am reminded and convicted by how far short I fall of what Paul has prayed for me.**

**2. I am reminded and convicted of how desperately I need to pray this prayer for my life...and for yours.**