

## Message Three

### The Two Prayers of Paul in Ephesians

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:17-23; 3:16-21

#### I. Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-23:

- A. "...the Father of glory may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him"—v.17:
  - 1. The spirit here does not refer to the Spirit of the Lord but our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit of God.
  - 2. Just as we need to use our eyes to see and our ears to hear, we need to use our spirit to touch and contact God.
  - 3. We need a spirit of wisdom and revelation in order to know the church thoroughly and to see the church clearly.
- B. "The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that we may know..."—v. 18:
  - 1. The hope of God's calling—the hope of the Lord Jesus' coming again—cf. Col. 1:27.
  - 2. The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints—the saints' expression of the riches of God's glory is what God desires to inherit in the saints.
  - 3. The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe—the power that operated in the Lord Jesus Christ:
    - a. The resurrecting power—v. 20.
    - b. The transcending power—vv. 20-21.
    - c. The subjecting power—v. 22.
    - d. The heading-up power—v. 22.
- C. The church as the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all, is the issue of the four-fold power of Christ.

#### II. Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16-21:

- A. Paul's first prayer in chapter one is related to our knowing of the church which enables us to enter into the church; his second prayer in chapter three is related to our living the church life which results in the expression of God, the glorification of God.
- B. Our spirit is the organ for us to know and enter into the church; however, in order to remain in the church and have the living of the church, our spirit needs to become our inner man, our person—1:17; 3:16.
- C. Our inner man needing to be strengthened with power through His Spirit—v. 16:
  - 1. We are strengthened into our inner man when we use and exercise our spirit to contact the Lord's Spirit.
  - 2. The power here is the fourfold power which operated in Christ as referred to in 1:19-22.
- D. "That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith"— v. 17a:
  - 1. The center of personality is the heart which is comprised of our mind, emotion, will, and conscience.
  - 2. Christ must be the Person indwelling our hearts in order for Him to take possession of all our inward parts.

3. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us, occupying every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts, and saturating them with Himself.
  4. Christ's indwelling us can be apprehended by the sense of faith.
- E. "Being rooted and grounded in love"—v. 17b:
1. Faith enables us to apprehend Christ, and love enables us to enjoy Him.
  2. That we are rooted indicates that we are plants, and our being grounded means that we are a building.
  3. When we are rooted and grounded in His love, we grow and are built up in His life.
- F. "May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are"—v. 18:
1. The four dimensions are the dimensions of Christ which are unlimited.
  2. To apprehend the dimensions of Christ, we need all the saints, not individually but corporately.
  3. When Christ is able to make His home in our hearts, occupying all the inward parts of our being, we will be able to be built up with all the saints—2:21-22; 4:12, 16.
- G. "And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God"—v. 19:
1. Just as Christ is immeasurable, so also is His love.
  2. Through His indwelling, Christ imparts the fullness of God into our being that we may be filled even unto the fullness of God to be the practical manifestation of the church, in which God may be glorified in His expression.
- H. "To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen."—v. 21.