



July 15

## **READ & DIG.**

Read Ephesians 3:14-21 Pause and pray.

Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

### **Why. (V.14) For what reason?**

Paul our author is referencing the past chapters, and pausing to pray and reflect on all the things we have studied the last two days. For the reason of redemption for ALL he is bowing (falling to his knees to honor and respect) before the Lord to offer a pretty amazing prayer that should encourage us and cause us to want to follow this leadership in prayer regular.

### **What?(V.15-19)**

Pastor Stephen has taught me the importance of praying scripture. This is a great example of doing just that. What in the world is Paul praying? There is a long list of things here. Let's model it in what could be our words as we pray this for us and other believers to be encouraged in what the Lord offers us. Remember in chapter 1 we get all spiritual blessings as an inheritance. Let's start praying them down on us, huh?! "Lord please strengthen us with Your power through the Holy Spirit. Strengthen us to the point that Christ is displayed dwelling in our hearts through faith. Root and ground us in your love, so that we can understand along with other Christians how big, far, wide, and deep your love is! Please Lord fill us with the fullness of God that we may live complete in You." This would be the prayer Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus in our own words for us. Now, if we will trust and believe that the Lord can & would do all that for us we will be really living and sharing His word regular.

### **How? (V.20)**

How do we pray and know this prayer will actually work in and through us? Well, in verse 20 Paul isn't finished praying yet. He begins to conclude his prayer with proclaiming his confidence in Christ. This is a prayer to a God we KNOW is capable of doing MORE and GREATER things that our human minds can even think to ask. We must choose to be confident in God. He has proven Himself time and time again!

### **Wrapping up! (V.21)**

Paul ends his prayer praising the God he is confident in will see to answering all the things he has asked above for the Christians around him. He also acknowledges (I love this part) that Christ Jesus is for ALL GENERATIONS FOREVER AND EVER...that's us. We are a generation, you are a generation, and your children will be a generation. Paul covered all of us, then, now, and forever. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Paul knew that. The God that did all the miracles throughout His word, is the same God that was seeing Paul through struggles, even to the point of prison, is the same God that will take us through our personal today struggles. Even the ones we create on our own when we open our eyes and surrender them to Him.

### **Apply & GO**

Stop. Pause. Pray. Pray with the confidence that Paul was for this church; for you and I. Pray and ask the God of this redemption (saving) story from the beginning of Ephesians to help you understand His great love and help you to live it out and share it with others.