

Ephesians

Week 08 – Strength to Love

Transition: Last week Paul revealed even more of the mystery about the Jews and the Gentiles being unified into one body (group) because of and through Jesus Christ. Specifically, he revealed that the Church is the revelation of God's manifold wisdom. This is a grandiose statement and worthy of much further consideration.

Context: This week we are covering Paul's second recorded prayer in this letter. In his first prayer (1:15-23), he prayed that they would know (be enlightened to) the riches of their glorious inheritance as children of God and the immeasurable greatness of His power in their lives. In this prayer, he is praying for strength, love, and filling. Paul's prayer reveals how these three things work together in the life of someone who has trusted in Christ.

Opening Questions:

- When have you personally experienced the power of God in your life? What happened? How did it affect you?
- When has loving someone (whom you knew you ought to love) been difficult for you? Why? Did you overcome the difficulty? If so, how?

Scripture/Storying: Ephesians 3:14-21

Discipleship Questions:

- Paul begins by saying, "For this reason...." What is the reason to which he's referring and how does it relate to this prayer?
- How do you sum up Paul's prayer (in your own words). Why is this on the forefront of Paul's mind and heart for them?
- What does it mean to "be filled with the fullness of God" (v19)? How does it happen? How would someone know that it's happened?
- What is the relationship between spiritual strength/power, knowing the love of Christ, and being filled with the fullness of God? When have you seen these three things evident in your own life? How did it happen?
- Do Christians have any part in answering this request? Why or why not? If so, what part?
- Paul ends his prayer with a benediction (v20-21). Why does he do this? Do you typically end your prayers this way? Why or why not? If you started doing it, what impact might it have?
- How do Paul's two prayers (1:15-23 & 3:14-21) work together? Why are both of his requests vital to a healthy life?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to today's discussion?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Redeem All Ministries Africa, a ministry that Providence supports.

- Pray for the organizing, planning, and success of the soccer and netball tournaments (their biggest events).
- Pray for the growth of our youth ministry through our soccer and netball tournaments.
- Pray for spiritual wisdom and power made evident through the love we have for Christ.
- Pray that many souls will come to Jesus for salvation.