

Lesson # 6 -- The Prayer of Paul for the Ephesians - The Prayer for Divine Fulness.

Introduction

- A. The Biblical concept of prayer reminds us that Christianity involves a personal relationship with God.
- B. God addresses us as a person, He has made a provision for us as persons, He is concerned about us as persons, and, He seeks to fellowship with us in the relationship of faith, love and hope, as a person.
- C. Almost every facet of the Christian life begins within. This is where God wants to work with us. He is seeking to change us within so we may be free as a person.
- D. This prayer is another expression of the will of God for His people.

I. The Motivation of Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 3:14,15.

- A. "For this cause," refers to the unity of all believers as God's temple, Eph. 2:13-22.
 - 1. All believers are united in one body, V16.
 - 2. All believers are equal in spiritual benefits, Vs 18,19.
 - 3. All believers are joined together in being a holy temple, the habitation of God, Vs 21,22.
 - 4. Paul prayed that this oneness would be recognized, understood and practiced by the Ephesians.
- B. "For this cause," refers to the purpose of God to display His wisdom through the church, Eph. 3:1,9-11.
 - 1. As Israel of old, the church is an object lesson of the grace and wisdom of God.
 - 2. The angels, good and bad, are to see the manifestations of divine wisdom in the lives of believers, I Cor. 4:9.
 - 3. Paul prayed that the people at Ephesus would be that kind of a testimony.

II. The Basis of Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 3:14-16.

- A. The basis in the true fatherhood of God, Vs 14,15.
 - 1. All believers are related to God as Father, Matthew 6:9.
 - 2. This relationship of having God as our Father is to be developed more and more in fellowship with God, II Corinthians 6:14-18.

B. The basis in the unlimited provision of divine riches, V16.

1. God's gifts are not based on our good works, Eph. 2:8-10.
2. Divine redemption and its promises are rooted in the abundance of God's grace, Eph. 1:7; Phil. 4:19.

III. The Requests in Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 3:16-19.

A. That we might be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, V16.

1. The explanation.

- a. The importance of the inner man, Romans 7:22; II Cor. 4:16.
- b. The provision for the inner man.

- 1). To be strengthened with might. Eph. 1:19; 3:7; 3:20; 6:10; Phil. 3:10; II Tim. 1:7; II Peter 1:3.
- 2). To be strengthened by His Spirit, John 16:13,14; Acts 1:8; 4:31-33; 6:5-8; Eph. 5:18; 6:18.

2. The instruction: This is God's will for our daily lives.

B. That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, V17.

1. The explanation.

- a. The word "dwell" means "to be at home". This refers to the Lord Jesus Christ being welcome in all the areas of our lives and our conscious fellowship with Him in all these areas.

b. This divine indwelling is related to our response of faith, John 14:23.

2. The instruction: This is God's will for our daily lives.

C. That we might be able to comprehend and to know the love of Jesus Christ, Vs 17-19.

1. The explanation.

a. This love is described as without limit.

- 1). It is everlasting in time, Jeremiah 31:3.
- 2). It is immeasurable in extent, John 15:9.
- 3). It is infinite in definition, John 17:23.
- 4). It is permanent in duration, Romans 8:38,39.

- b. The experience of Christ's love goes beyond knowledge.
 - 1). It is persevering in forgiveness, Hosea 3:1.
 - 2). It is personal in intimacy, Galatians 2:20.
 - 3). It is sacrificial in action, I John 4:9,10.
- 2. The instruction: This is God's will for our daily lives.
- D. That we might be filled with all the fullness of God, V19.
 - 1. The explanation.
 - a. God desires to manifest Himself fully in our attitudes and actions. Illustration: His love within us, I John 2:5; 4:12,17,18.
 - b. God desires to manifest Himself to us in the fellowship of daily life, II Corinthians 6:16; Revelations 3:20.
 - 2. The instruction: This is God's will for our daily lives.
- IV. The Benediction in Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 3:20,21. (Note Romans 16:25-27)
 - A. As an affirmation of faith, V20.
 - 1. The promise of divine enablement.
 - 2. The reminder of the importance of prayer.
 - B. As the goal of prayer, V21.
 - 1. That God would be glorified.
 - 2. That this glory would be manifested in the church, now and forever.

Conclusion: Now we must ask the question: Are we living in the will of God?

Counsel: Utilize this prayer each day in your devotions. Humbly and honestly ask God to fulfill the four petitions in your daily life.