

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: December 12, 2021

Series: Identity: Life in Christ (Ephesians)

Lesson Title: "Life-Changing Power" (Ephesians 3:14-21)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Summary of Lesson: "Life-Changing Power"

Paul resumed the prayer he began in Eph. 3:1. He prayed that the Father would grant the Ephesian Christians spiritual strength, a deep awareness of Christ's companionship, and a thorough knowledge of His love.

2. "Powered Up"

Nearly ev'rything is powered by electricity or batteries or fuel today. But that's not always been the case. Things like lawn mowers, car windows, recliners, and toothbrushes used to require people power to work.

What has gone from manual to power in your lifetime?

Which transition from manual to power impacted your life the most?

CONTINUATION OF PAUL'S PRAYER (3:14-15)

1. With _____ (vs. 14)

Question(s) for Discussion

- What occupies your mind more—the grandness of God's grace or the troublesomeness of your circumstances? Explain. How might you focus more on the grandness of God's grace?

2. With _____ (vs. 15)

Does verse 15 teach the universal fatherhood of God?

Question(s) for Discussion

- How should praying to God as our Father affect our prayer life?

CONTENT OF PAUL'S PRAYER (3:16-19)

He made specific requests to God the Father on behalf of the Ephesians.

1. The Spirit's _____ (vs. 16)

Question(s) for Discussion

- When, if ever, have you prayed for someone to be strengthened by the Spirit in his or her "inner man"? What circumstances might warrant such a prayer?

2. The Son's _____ and _____ (vss. 17-19)

Question(s) for Discussion

- What would you list as effects of being rooted in love?

3. The Father's _____ (vs. 19)

Question(s) for Discussion

CONCLUSION TO PAUL'S PRAYER (3:20-21)

1. Confidence in God's _____ (vs. 20)

Paul closed his brief, big prayer with a doxology in which he expressed confidence that God was *more than able* to grant his requests.

Question(s) for Discussion

2. Concern for God's _____ (vs. 21)

God is glorified in the church, the Body of Christ. We are to glorify God "throughout all ages, world without end."

A Christmas Devotional Thought:

Jesus left his lofty place to rescue glory thieves who insert themselves into His place and make it all about them!

In 2 Cor. 5:15, Paul is quite clear about the reason for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He says, "He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." No human being has ever successfully escaped the draw of sin that Paul points to here.

. . .

We are all thieves because there is something very valuable that we all steal from God—his glory. Jesus was born not to condemn thieves but to forgive them!