

## Study Questions - Week 10

### Please read 3:14-19 - Let's make sense out of this prayer

- A.** This the second prayer in Ephesians. In the first one (1:15-23), it is Paul's prayer we would grow toward an intimate knowledge of God. Some think this second one is a continuation from that first one. How might that be the case?
- B.** Throughout Ephesians 1-3, we have seen the concepts of God's powerful grace in our lives, God's plan and His purpose for mankind and the universe, the Church as His fullness, and God's sovereign loving rule over lives even in the midst of suffering. How might these concepts all be included in the understanding of this prayer? (By the way, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, The Unsearchable Riches of Christ devotes ten chapters to these verses)!
- C.** If knowing the deep reality of God's plan and purpose for the church as we put it into practice in our lives is the main theme of this prayer then what is the catalyst to get us there?
- D.** How is God's powerful love described for us in verse 18? Some see the dimensions (i.e. breadth, length, height, depth) as symbolic of the cross. In what other ways can you explain those dimensions? (Lloyd-Jones devotes an entire chapter to it, pp. 218-229)
- E.** What would tell us that this prayer isn't just about what we individually get out of it but what we **collectively, as a church**, should get out of it in order to forward the cause of Christ?

### Please read 3:20-21 - Let's make sense out of this doxology

- A.** This section has been given the title – **Is Anything Too Hard for God?** Someone has said there are 7 stages to God's Powerful Grace. Fill in the blanks.

GOD is \_\_\_\_\_  
GOD is able to \_\_\_\_\_  
GOD is able to do what we \_\_\_\_\_  
GOD is able to do what we ask or \_\_\_\_\_  
GOD is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ that we ask or imagine  
GOD is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ than all we ask or imagine  
GOD is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ more than we ask or imagine

### Use God's "pyramid of power" to answer the following questions:

- What is God trying to do in your life that is so big you can hardly imagine it?
- What is God trying to get you to do with your life that is so amazing you have barely begun to dream it?
- What is God leading this community of believers to do that is so daring we can scarcely fathom it? What will CBC do to forward the cause of Christ?

# EPHESIANS

A GOD  
CENTERED  
GOSPEL

# *When the Suffering of the World Comes Knocking on the Door of Faith*

(This is the 9th in a series of messages entitled *The God Centered Gospel*)

## *Ephesians 3:1-13*

Someone asked C.S. Lewis, "Why do *the righteous* suffer?"

"Why not?" he replied. "*They're* the only ones who can take it."

Without showing any disrespect to the immortal Lewis that hasn't always been the case. Even the Prophet Jeremiah bemoaned to himself "**Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?**" (20:18).

Unless we have a clear understanding of why we (or others) suffer it is very likely we can become disillusioned and lose heart. Paul, on the other hand, sat under house arrest for 5 years and, yet, with the right perspective he persevered and in the end he could say "**So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory**" (v 13).

### *Idea*

By His powerful grace God redeems us and puts us into relationships. Nothing is beyond His ability to bring back life from the dead. This means even unjust suffering when approached with the right perspective is life-giving.

## *Lessons*

- I. **HAVE AN ACCURATE \_\_\_\_\_ OF SUFFERING (v 1)**
  - A. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of suffering
  - B. There is an \_\_\_\_\_ kind of suffering
    1. There is a suffering experienced for \_\_\_\_\_
    2. There is a suffering experienced for \_\_\_\_\_
- II. **\_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_ IN YOUR SUFFERING (v 1)**
  - A. We either grow \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. We learn His \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. We learn His \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_
- III. **\_\_\_\_\_ SUFFERING BROADENS \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 2-9)**
- IV. **\_\_\_\_\_ THE BIG \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 10-13)**
  - A. God gets glory from the \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 10-12)
  - B. God gets glory from the \_\_\_\_\_ (v 13)