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Prayer for the Implementation of the Mystery (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Introduction

Paul's first prayer was found in 1:15-23 in which he prayed for three things. First, that the Ephesians know the hope of his calling. Second, he prayed the Ephesians would understand the nature and value of their spiritual inheritance. Third, he prayed that they might know the great power of God available to them. In this second prayer he prays that believers might be united in the love of Christ. First, he prayed believers would submit to Christ who made all things, 3:14-15. Second, he prayed that believers would experience and share Christ's love, 3:16-19. Third, he prayed for Christ to be glorified by whatever a believer does, 3:20-21.

In the opening verses of 3:1-13 there is a challenge to do six things. First, they are to respect the authority of Paul as one called to minister to the Gentiles, 3:1. Second, they must submit to a new "dispensation" of "mystery" the grace of God, 3:2-4. Third, they must accept the content of the "mystery" revealed by the Holy Spirit, 3:5-6. Fourth, they must preach the Gospel which is the power of salvation. Fifth, they must focus on the accomplishment of God's plans and not our own. Sixth, they must pursue all of this will boldness, confident access to God, steadfastness, not losing confidence, all with the goal of bringing in the eternal glory of Christ! What a tall order! How can anyone do these things? In order to accomplish these six things we must prayerfully seek the following six things:

- I. A Prayer to Seek the Source of the Mystery, 3:14-15.
 1. It is the plan of the Father from the foundation of the world, v. 14a.
 2. It is the plan revealed through our Lord Jesus Christ, v. 14b
 3. It is the plan for both the earthly and heavenly families, v. 15

- II. Praying for Inner Power & Wisdom to Do His Will, 3:16-17; Zech 4:6-10.
 1. It is a prayer to be granted according to the riches of His glory, v. 16a
 2. It is a prayer for the strength of the Holy Spirit, v. 16b; Zech 4:6-10
 3. It is a prayer for the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, vv. 16c-17a

- III. Praying for Ability to comprehend the Mystery of His love, 3:17b-19a.
 1. It is a prayer for faith rooted and grounded in love, v. 17b
 2. It is a love that is comprehensible by believers, v. 18a
 3. It is a love as big as the fullness of God, v. 18b

- IV. Praying for Infinite Fullness of His presence, 3:19; Zech 4:6-10.
 - 1. It is God's love that only expressed fully in Christ, v. 19a
 - 2. It is Divine love that passes human comprehension, v. 19b
 - 3. It is Christ's love that brings us to all the fullness of God, v. 19c

- V. Praying for Ability to Accomplish the Unimaginable, 3:20
 - 1. It is the power of love that only God is able to supply, v. 20a
 - 2. It is the power of love exceeding anything we ask or think, v. 20b
 - 3. It is the power of love that God works in us to achieve His will, v. 20c

- VI. Praying for His Eternal Glory in the Church, 4:21.
 - 1. It is the power of love that glorifies God in the church, v. 21a
 - 2. It is the power of love that is available by Christ Jesus, v. 21b
 - 3. It is the power of love that is for all generations forever, v. 21c