

**Paul's Second Prayer
For The Ephesians**
(Conclusion)
Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians
Ephesians 3:14-21

- ◆ Paul's prayer on behalf of the Ephesians ...
 - ◆ That they be strengthened by the Spirit of God.
 - ◆ So they can comprehend the love of Christ.
 - ◆ And thus be filled with all the fullness of God.

◆ **NOW ... Is God "able" to fulfill this petition?**
YES!!! Note how he closes the prayer ...

Closing
Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20 – Glory to God for what he is "*able to do!*"

- "*Exceeding*" – "i. e. of position, situation, extension: over, above, beyond, across." (Thayer)
- "*Abundantly*" – "superabundantly; beyond measure; exceedingly; 1 Thess 5:13" (Thayer)

"Super-abundantly above" *huper panta poiēsai huper ekperissou*; literally, "beyond all things to do superabundantly" (C.G. Caldwell, Truth Commentary Series)

Closing
Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20 – Glory to God for what he is "*able to do!*"

- ◆ Athenians had to learn the glory of God. Acts 17:24-28
- ◆ Romans 16:25-27, "*Now to him that is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal, but now is manifested, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, is made known unto all the nations unto obedience of faith: to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever. Amen.*"

Closing
Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20 – Glory to God for what he is "*able to do!*"

God's power seen:

- ◆ In creation. Genesis 1:1; Psalms 33:6-9
- ◆ In sacrifice. John 3:16
- ◆ In revelation. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ◆ In salvation. Ephesians 2:1-10
- ◆ In judgment. Hebrews 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10

Closing
Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20 – Glory to God for what he is "*able to do!*"

- ◆ Paul reaffirms God's power to do what he has prayed for ...
- ◆ Romans 11:36; cf. 16:25; 9:5; Jude 24; Galatians 1:5
- ◆ "*According to the power that worketh in us*" cf. Ephesians 1:19; 3:16
- ◆ God's love and grace revealed to us.
- ◆ NOTE: Only we limit the power of God.

Closing Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 21 – *Glory to God* in the church and in Christ forever!

“Glory” used in two senses:

1. God’s supreme nature, powerful and good.
 - ◊ Inherent with the being of God, man doesn’t give it, only recognizes it. Verse 16
 - ◊ cf. Romans 16:27, *“to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever. Amen.”*

Closing Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 21 – *Glory to God* in the church and in Christ forever!

“Glory” used in two senses:

2. Praise and honor rendered by others because of His greatness. Verse 21
 - ◊ cf. Revelation 4:8-11
 - ◊ In this sense, glory should never be given to men! Psalms 115:1, *“Not unto us, O Jehovah, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy lovingkindness, and for thy truth’s sake.”* cf. 1 Corinthians 1:29-31

Closing Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 21 – *Glory to God* in the church and in Christ.

- ◊ The church is the means by which Glory is given to God. cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
 - ◊ Note: *“Church”* is singular indicating that men praise God within the one body (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23)
 - ◊ *“Unto all generations forever and ever.”*
 - ◊ Throughout the ages and throughout eternity! cf. Revelation 5:9-14
- **The most respectful manner in which we glorify the Father is to respond to His will as revealed in the Gospel.**
“AMEN!”

Conclusion:

- ◊ Do we desire to give God glory throughout all ages, world without end? NOTE: Ephesians 1-3
- ◊ If so, then it must be *“by Jesus Christ,”* and that can be only as we ...
 - ◊ Come to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.
 - ◊ Allow ourselves to *“be filled with all the fullness of God.”*
- ◊ How can we be sure to be *“filled with all the fullness of God?”*
 - ◊ For one who is **ALREADY A CHRISTIAN**, we should follow Paul’s example and start with prayer (such as the one in our text)
 - ◊ For one who is **NOT A CHRISTIAN**, then one needs first to become a child of God. cf. Galatians 3:26-27