**July 9, 2017 “For This Reason I Bow My Knees” Ephesians 3:14-21**

As I have told you several times over the last months while we have been studying the Book of Ephesians, this book is basically divided into two sections. I have been thinking of a way to try to illustrate the two sections and finally came upon what I think is a good one. Yesterday, I was doing some things around the house when I realized I needed to use my drill to drive in some screws. Now my drill in its most simplistic terms is made up of two parts. The first part is the battery and the second part is the motor.

The battery as you well know is the power source. It stores up the power needed to make the motor turn. The motor on the other hand is what is providing the action. It moves the drill bit or whatever other device is connected to the right or left.

Now I can have both of these components in place; the motor and the battery but neither one is going accomplish much without being connected one to another. There is a device on my drill located right under the motor and above the battery. It is called the switch. If I depress the switch ever so slightly; the motor moves ever so slowly. The more I depress the switch the faster the motor turns and the more power is sent to the motor.

That is the best illustration of the Book of Ephesians I can come up with at this time. The first three chapters are all about the strength, power and riches of God which He has made available to His children. Chapter four through six is how the strength, power and riches of God work their way out in our lives so that we no longer conform to the standard of this world but walk in newness of life with victory over sin and death.

However, those two items must be connected through a switch which is Ephesians 3:14-21. I can and will tell you that we are not going to skim over this passage but rather we are going to ruminate on this passage until we know it forward and backward. We need to understand this passage in order that we can accomplish the two goals of this church which are 1) study, know and teach the Word of God with clarity and boldness and, 2) be a living, breathing, walking testimony of the grace of God that is made available through Christ. Every day through our emotions, through our actions and through our words we will live our lives in victory for the Glory of God.

1. Ephesians 3:14-21
   1. Re-read with “in order that”
      1. Purpose result clause
         1. Each step leads to another
         2. Cannot start in the middle
   2. If we only hear of the power and riches of God
   3. And never apply those to our lives
      1. We are like a drill sitting on the shelf
         1. Waiting for the switch to be depressed
         2. So we can move with purpose
2. Second prayer with the Book
   1. First prayer is in
   2. Ephesians 1:15-23
      1. Telling the Ephesians two things
         1. Who they are in Christ Jesus
         2. How to act like it
3. Second prayer
   1. Ephesians 3:14-21
      1. “For this reason”
         1. What reason?
            1. Ephesians 2:19-22

“you are being built into a dwelling of God”

* 1. Do not miss this!!!!
     1. Because you are a Christian… child of God… a member of His family
        1. You are
           1. The dwelling place of God (Ephesians 3:22)
           2. Built upon Christ (Ephesians 3:20
           3. How? By the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:22)
  2. How many of us live our lives in this manner?
     1. That the God who made this entire universe
        1. Dwells in me?
           1. “In order that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19)

1. “I bow my knees to the Father”
   1. Speaks of an intimacy of love
      1. Illustration of Finley
         1. I want to be held by you
         2. I want to know your love
         3. I want to feel your presence
            1. Then everything will be alright
      2. Andy did not say
         1. You need to clean up your act before I pick you up
         2. You need go and wash your hands before I pick you up
   2. Can you imagine how our prayer life should or would change if we would remember this illustration?
2. Paul’s focus in prayer is the “inner man” not the outer man
   1. Note the following
      1. Philippians 1:9-11
      2. Colossians 1:9-12
      3. I Thessalonians 1:2-3
   2. It is the inner man which needs to be strengthened
      1. Ezra 9:5-8
         1. A moment of Grace
         2. Ephesians 1:7-8a

We are rich in the Grace of God… maybe it is high time we remember that