**July 16, 2017 “Strengthened with Power” Ephesians 3:14-16**

I would like to start out today conducting a short recap of what we learned last week. This will take only a few minutes. So those of you who were here last week, please bear with me as we review a short synopsis of last week’s sermon.

First, if you will recall, we remembered that the book of Ephesians is divided up into two sections. The first three chapters are dedicated to what God has done for all those who “want to glorify God and enjoy His presence forever.”

The second half of the book, chapters 4-6, are instructions on how we should live once we understand what God has done, is doing and will be doing in the lives of those who love Him.

Sandwiched in-between these two sections are some of the most important verses in all of Scripture. These few verses found in Ephesians 3:14-21 are the connecting circuit between what God has done and how we should then live in response.

Ephesians 3:14-21

If you will recall, Paul starts out this section of verses as a prayer. Note the start:

1. For this reason
   1. What reason?
      1. Ephesians 2:22… “in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit”
      2. Note also in Ephesians 3:14-17a
         1. Father… Ephesians 3:14
         2. Spirit… Ephesians 3:16
         3. Christ… The Son… Ephesians 3:17a
      3. The in-working of the Triune God
         1. Forming us into His dwelling place!!!!
2. Purpose result clause
   1. Progressive steps
      1. Cannot start at the end
      2. Must start at the first step and work your way through
   2. Note the steps or sequence
      1. Inner strength… Ephesians 3:16
      2. In-dwelling of Christ… Ephesians 3:17
      3. Un-fathomable love of Christ… Ephesians 3:18-19a
      4. Infinite fullness… Ephesians 3:19b
      5. Internal power… Ephesians 3:20

That is not how most of us live. We oftentimes struggle with this Christian life just hoping to get through today. Struggling to put one foot in front of the other… hoping that someday… it will be worth it all… because right now it doesn’t feel like it. Some way… somehow… someway… somehow. I have really good news for all of us… Jesus Christ is the Way and the Holy Spirit is the How!!!!!

1. Strengthened in… inner man
   1. Why does Paul use this term… “inner man”?
      1. That is the “real you and me”
      2. Not what we portray to be but who we really are
   2. How many of us have questioned the actions of sports stars or movie stars?
      1. Divorces, alcohol binges, drugs, rehabilitations, suicides due to drug overdoses, arrests, for some the worst behaviors
   3. Why do they do these things when they have so much in the terms of worldly wealth?
      1. They have no control over the “inner man”
      2. That far too often is the problem with you and I as Christians
         1. We try to control the “inner man”
         2. Note God’s Word says “the inner man must be strengthened by the Holy Spirit”… not by us
2. One of the great problems in the Christians life is
   1. They do not realize who they are in Christ
      1. Romans 8:16… we are the children of God
      2. Romans 8:17… heirs… joint-heirs with Christ
   2. How does this relate to you and me?
      1. Ephesians 3:16
      2. “According the riches of His glory”
         1. This is a term Paul used frequently
         2. To help us understand what God has done and given to us… His children
   3. Ephesians 1:3… every blessing in heavenly places
      1. Ephesians 1:7; 11; 14; Ephesians 2:4; 7, Ephesians 3:8, 16
      2. Do we know what that means?
         1. You and I who are Christians are as rich as heaven itself
   4. What Paul is praying is that you and I live with this knowledge in mind
      1. II Corinthians 4:16-18
         1. Outer is perishing
            1. How much time every day do we spend pampering the decaying?
            2. How long every day to shower, eat, get dressed, put on or take off… looking at our cell phone for the latest Facebook stuff, searching the Web or watching TV?
         2. Inner man is being renewed
            1. Day by day
   5. How?
      1. Through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit
         1. Ephesians 5:26… through the washing of the Word
            1. Psalm 119:105… Thy Word have I hidden in my heart

That’s fine for you but you don’t know what is going on in my life

I have an advantage… I get to watch all of you during service. Let’s see if old Larry get give us a little spark for the rest of the week

I can’t sing

The Lord inhabits the praises of His people

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with Praise

Ephesians 5:19

Turn in your Bibles… many of us haven’t looked at our Bibles in 6 months

Thy Word is lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Heaven and earth will pass away but My Word will remain forever