

I Bow My Knees to the Father (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Water of Life

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Review of the Exposition:

1:3-14: Gentile believers ought to bless the Father for the Trinity's work in preparing, procuring, and protecting Jewish believers' inheritance first (and also for doing these for Gentile believer's inheritance)

1:15-23 Thus, Paul thankfully prays that God would enable these already-enlightened believers to know: (1) the hope entailed in the Father calling them, (2) their rich corporate inheritance, and (3) how the Father works on behalf of believers with the same power by which He raised and seated Christ above all powers.

2:1-10 And God enlivened, raised, and seated Jewish and Gentile believers together with Christ, though you and we were dead in trespasses, to display His grace in coming ages; specifically the by grace kind of salvation is an unmerited gift offering no basis for boasting, for the church is God's artifact, created in Christ Jesus to do good works pre-designed for it to do.

2:11-13 Thus Gentiles should remember their former alienation, but how they are brought near.

2:14-22 As explanation Christ reconciled Jews and Gentiles by abolishing the Law (source of enmity), to (1) create one new man (the Church) from the two and (2) reconcile both to God; so both have equal access to the Father, thus Gentiles are no longer and aliens, but are built together with Jewish saints upon Christ (the cornerstone) and upon the foundational [ministry] of apostles and [NT] prophets into a holy temple [the church] indwelt by God in the Spirit.

3:1-7, 13 **[FOR THIS REASON]** Paul [asks them not lose heart at his imprisonment] on behalf of Gentiles, because they know of the grace (spiritual gift) given to Paul: God revealed the previously unrevealed mystery to apostles & NT prophets [that any Gentiles would be fellow-heirs, of the same body, and fellow partakers.

3:8-13 As explanation, God gave unworthy Paul a grace (gift) to (1) proclaim to Gentiles God's rich inheritance, and (2) to enlighten everyone concerning the mystery that the Creator had hidden from creation, so (through the revelation given to apostles and prophets) the church would be the instrument by which angelic powers would learn of the mystery (God's eternal plan accomplished by Christ who emboldens us for ministering the mystery—so Paul's imprisonment is not a cause for losing heart.

3:14-21 **FOR THIS REASON**, Paul prays...

4:1-6:20 **THEREFORE**, I exhort you...

[Therefore = For this reason]

The "Therefore" of 4:1 points back to the "For this reason" of 3:14.

The "For this reason" of 3:14 points back to the "For this reason" of 3:1a.

The "For this reason" of 3:1a points back to the discussion in 2:14-22

(Remember that 3:1b-13 is a parenthesis, as depicted above)

NEW EXPOSITION

3:14-15 [Based Christ creating the Church and reconciling it to God (2:14-22)] Paul prays to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because the whole fatherhood [the Church] derives from Him.

The words “of our Lord Jesus Christ” belong in the text.

Fatherhood is *patria* (meaning a family headed by a father). Paul prays to the *Father* (*patēr*).

The significance of *named*

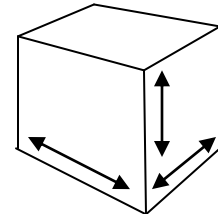
3:16 [Paul prays] that God would use the Spirit to strengthen them in their innermost being.

3:17a The purpose for praying for them to be strengthened is that Christ would be at home in them

All believers are indwelt by the Trinity, but Paul is praying for something distinct here

3:17b-19a The purpose for Christ being at home in these (who are already rooted and grounded in love) is so they would comprehend the extensiveness of Christ’s love and that they would increasingly know Christ’s love that we can never fully know

3:17b Having been rooted and grounded. Many translations ignore the verb tense (perfect). Paul is not praying that the rooting and grounding would now happen. Rather, he prays this, because they are already rooted and grounded in love.



3:18 width, length, depth, height = three-dimensional extent

The extent of *what*? Of Christ’s love. (Note the shaded words in the translation).

3:19a Knowing the unknowable? No, knowing what cannot be exhaustively known.

3:19b Purpose of comprehending/knowing is to be filled w/ all the fullness [that comes] from God.

3:20-21 Glory is to be ascribed to the Father who now works in us to do all the things [described in Ephesians 1–3] that are beyond what we would ever ask for or even imagine

Ephesians 1:3-3:21 (the first point of the body of the book) is like a sandwich

Bless the Father who blessed us with every heavenly blessing

1:3-14

1:15–3:19

Glorify the Father who did more than we would ask or think

3:20-21

CONCLUSION