

*several truths have already been established by the apostle

1-believers have a new identity in Christ (2:11-13) 2-they are now spiritually alive (2:1,5)

3-they are unified into God's household (2:19) 4- they are the dwelling place of God (2:22)

Vs.15-in the previous verse, Paul begins to pray for them (the "bowing of knees" is not an instruction for physical posture- it suggests an attitude of submission, reverence, and passion)

-"whole family"- Paul is not teaching universal Fatherhood of God nor universal brotherhood of man
(Truth- nowhere in Scripture is this taught- I John 3:10)

*he is referring to believers from every era of history

-"is named"-(onomazo) to be given a new name or to bear the name of another (Is.62:2, Rev.3:12)

Vs.16-you notice how Paul almost always prays for the spiritual welfare of others

(Phil.1:4, Col.1:9-11, I Thess.1:2)

-"grant"- (didomi)to furnish something necessary

-"riches of His glory"- God gives us all things necessary from His abundant supply

-"strengthened"- this strength is that of spiritual power

(this divine and dynamic power can only come from God as He's the One who endows it)

-"might"- (dunamis) the same word he used for "power" in vs.7

-"in the inner man"- this is the spirit of man (made alive now that he is saved- 2:1-5)

*this strength is in the Holy Spirit who has made the believer alive and continually abides in him
(this is shown as He bears witness to the redeemed spirit in man)

-this strength includes perseverance, discernment, growth, and maturity

Truth- even though the outer man grows weaker over time, the inner man (spirit) grows stronger (II Cor. 4:16)

Vs.17-"dwelt"- God dwells in His temple to always be present for those who worship Him

(a fitting statement since he just concluded that His people are now His temple- 2:22)

-"faith"- this opens the door and receives Him

Truth- in some, Christ is present, in others, He is prominent, and to some, He is preeminent (Col.1:18)

-"in love"- this comes from a deep understanding and appreciation of the love that God has for us- I John 4:10

Vs.18- the idea of this is the importance of unity in which he previously spoke

(comprehension is spiritual enlightenment)

-one cannot understand the fullness of God's love apart from genuine, Spirit-powered love in their own lives
(I John 4:8)

*the four measures used here to show the vastness and completeness of that love

Vs.19-"know the love of Christ"- Christianity isn't about one's love for Him but about His love that He places
in hearts before one can ever love Him or love others (Rom.5:5)

-"passeth"- (hyperballo) to surpass or to exceed

*the knowledge of the love of Christ surpasses the capability of human reasoning
(it can only be known by His children)

-"all the fulness"- this means to be so spiritually strong and so compelled by divine love that one is
totally dominated by the Lord with nothing left of self

(this is what it means to be filled with His presence and power)

(vs.20-21)- with the period at the end of vs.19, Paul turns from prayers of supplication to
praising The Sovereign

-"above all"- Paul continually praises God for His goodness and for the "effectual working of His power"

-"power in us"- it is the Lord that bestows His power into His children (its where He gets glory)

21- "glory-(doxa) splendor, brightness, magnificence, majesty

-"church by Jesus Christ"- Christ and the church constitute one living organism

(the church is the body and Christ is the Head- Col.1:18)

*Paul finishes this chapter with the duration of God's glory and that is throughout this age
and in the eternal age to come