

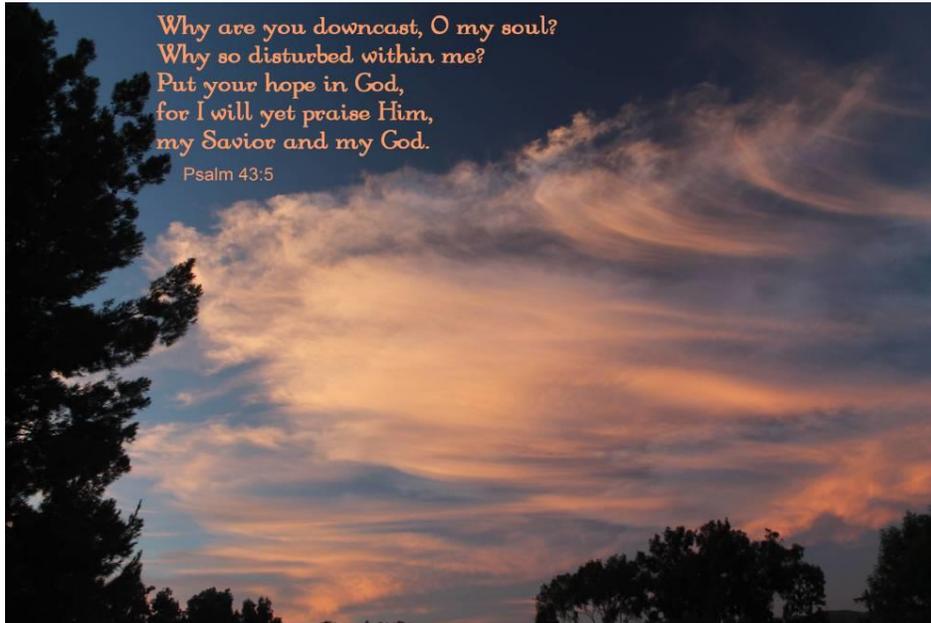
CHAPTER 3:14-21 “*A Prayer for the Ephesians*”

Begin by reading these verses.

1. When Paul refers to God as “Father” in verse 14, it is not in terms of paternity as much as in terms of relationship. The view of God as Father is only found in the book of Isaiah two times – Isaiah 63:16 and 64:8. Take a moment to read these verses. Jesus, and subsequently the apostles, frequently referred to God as Father. What does it mean to you to call God Father?
2. We have the name of Christ when we call ourselves Christians. Think for a moment what that means when we bear the name of Christ into the world. Has there ever been a time when you really didn’t want someone to know you were a Christian?
3. There are three requests in Paul’s prayer. The first is that the Ephesians would be “strengthened in their inner being.” What would that look like? How does it happen? Part of the answer to the second question is at the end of verse 16. See also Acts 1:8.
4. Second request: “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...” What do you feel it means to have Christ dwell in your heart? Remember the hymn that says, “Come, not to sojourn, but abide with me.” (See also Jesus’ reference to the vine and the branches in John 15.)
5. This would be a good time to read, or re-read Robert Munger’s *My Heart, Christ’s Home* that I passed out when we were studying this passage together. (NOTE: if you did not receive a copy of this little booklet, email me your mailing address, I will send you one.)
6. It is important that in order for Christ to dwell in our hearts that we be rooted and grounded in love. What do you think that is important? What is that love like?
7. Paul’s third request is in verses 18 and 19. How would you summarize this request?
8. How is the love of Christ greater than human love? What is the greatest expression of that love? (See Romans 5:6-8)
9. What do you think it means to be “filled with all the fullness of God”? What would that look like? (For one answer, see Romans 8:29.)
10. Paul ends the first half of the letter with a benediction in verses 20 and 21. Can you think of a time when you have seen God “accomplish abundantly far more” than all you asked or imagined, either in your life, or someone you know?
11. God’s glory should be exhibited, Paul says, in the church. Think of some ways that could happen.
12. How was God’s glory reflected in Jesus?

Ephesians 3B Review, Ephesians 3:14-21

Verse of the week:



Until we are together again, may God be with you!

Pastor Bob