

Ephesians 3:14-21

1. 3:14-19 is one long sentence of **Paul's habitual prayer for the Gentiles**
 - a. 3:14-19 provides the contents of Paul's prayer for the Gentiles
 - b. Paul praying for the Gentiles is as much a part of his service and apostleship as preaching to the Gentiles. Here Paul reports the content of his prayers in his service to the Gentiles
 - c. The essentials of this prayer have already been mentioned and developed in the first two chapters, mainly 1:15-19.
 - d. 3:14-15 – introduce the prayer; address God as “Father” since every family in heaven and on earth derives its name from him.
 - e. 3:16-19 – collects the content of Paul's habitual intercession for the Gentiles that accompanies his habitual preaching/teaching to the Gentiles. There are two central themes mentions as Paul's focus of intercession for the Gentiles:
 - i. 3:16-17 – inner strength through the Holy Spirit
 1. To be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their inner being
 2. Which results in Christ dwelling in their hearts by faith
 - ii. 3:17-19 – A prayer that the Gentiles would have knowledge of:
 1. The four dimensions
 2. Love of Christ
 - iii. 3:19 – Concluding request which is the ultimate result of the first two requests being achieved: that they might be filled up to all the fullness of God.
2. 3:20-21 is a two verse sentence that is a **doxology** used at the conclusion of Paul's Prayer.
 - a. Doxologies –
 - i. Doxologies are short statements of praise to God
 - ii. Doxologies are concluding formulas to:
 1. Prayers
 2. Hymns
 3. Sections of Paul's teaching in his Epistles
 - iii. Doxologies are made of three short parts:
 1. Identity of the person being praised (“Father”)
 2. The statement or word of praise (“glory”)
 3. Conclusion of a temporal description or the statement of the time limit ascribed to the word of praise, which is usually stated in the form of an eternity formula (“for ever and ever”)

Ephesians 3:14 – “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,”

3778 [e]	5484 [e]	2578 [e]	3588 [e]	1119 [e]	1473 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	3962 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]	1473 [e]	2424 [e]		
Toutou	charin	kamptō	ta	gonata	mou	pros	ton	Patera	tou	kyriou	hēmōn	lēsou		
14	Τούτου	χάριν	κάμπτω	τὰ	γόνατά	μου	πρὸς	τὸν	Πατέρα	,	ἡ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ
	... of this	for reason	I bow	the	knees	of me	to	the	Father	-	Lord	of our	Jesus	
	DPro-GNS	Prep	V-PIA-1S	Art-ANP	N-ANP	PPro-G1S	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P	N-GMS	

5547 [e]
 christou
 χριστοῦ} ,
 Christ
 N-GMS

1. **“For this reason”** was already started by Paul in 3:1 where he attempted to begin this prayer for the Gentiles, but he diverted immediately to:
 - i. Explain his ministry to the Gentiles and
 - ii. Explain his insight into their place in God’s plan known as the mystery of God now revealed.
 - b. 3:14 completes the sentence Paul began in 3:1
 - c. The details Paul inserted between 3:2-13 make this prayer more insightful
 - d. “For this reason” originally used in 3:1 was pointing back to:
 - i. 2:19-22 – where the Gentiles had become part of the spiritual temple God is constructing where he will dwell by his Spirit
 - ii. 2:1-10 – where God’s work of salvation for the Gentiles was explained to the Gentile readers.
 1. This work brought people out of both the Jews and the Gentiles into a new group, a new man, a new humanity, a new community the church.
 - iii. 1:15-23 – Paul’s opening prayer from 1:15-23 is developed and built on in 3:14-19 after many of the details are developed in chapter 2 and 3.
 - e. Clearly God’s eternal purpose in Christ is ultimately connected and accomplished by the creating and assembling of this new people, the believers in Jesus Christ.
2. **“bow my knee”**
 - a. Bowing in prayer was not unknown (Luke 22:41; Acts 21:5; 1 Kings 8:24; Ezra 9:5), but normal Jewish prayer and first century Christian prayer was to stand (Mark 11:25; Luke 18:11)
 - b. In this universal collection of peoples into the new man, the church, Paul may be reaching for Isaiah’s reference to universal homage to the universal King, the Messiah.
 - i. Isaiah 45:23 – “By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’”
 - ii. Also, Romans 14:11 – “for it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’”
 - iii. Philippians 2:10 – “so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,”
3. **“Father”** – in Paul’s Jewish and Gentile culture the title and position of “Father” included:
 - i. Intimacy
 - ii. Dignity
 - iii. Authority
 - iv. The father worked for the good of the family
 - v. The father ruled the family unit
 - b. Paul is approaching this “Father” on behalf of the family and Paul intends to be heard since it was the Father who sent Paul
 - c. “Father” has already been used in 1:2; 1:3; 1:17; 2:18; and will be used again in 4:6; 5:20; 6:23
 - d. This “Father” is the ruler of the universe and king of the world. He is more than “daddy”, but the universal king of whom every believer in Jesus Christ is a member of his royal family. Correct interaction with him includes paying homage as well as being an intimate family member.

Ephesians 3:15 – “from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,”

	1537 [e]	3739 [e]	3956 [e]	3965 [e]	1722 [e]	3772 [e]	2532 [e]	1909 [e]	1093 [e]	3687 [e]
	ex	hou	pasa	patria	en	ouranois	kai	epi	gēs	onomazetai
15	ἐξ	οὗ	πᾶσα	πατριὰ	ἐν	οὐρανοῖς	καὶ	ἐπὶ	γῆς	ὀνομάζεται ,
	from	whom	every	family	in	[the] heavens	and	on	earth	is named
	Prep	RelPro-GMS	Adj-NFS	N-NFS	Prep	N-DMP	Conj	Prep	N-GFS	V-PIMP-3S

Ephesians 3:16 – “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,”

	2443 [e]	1325 [e]	4771 [e]	2596 [e]	3588 [e]	4149 [e]	3588 [e]	1391 [e]	846 [e]	1411 [e]	2901 [e]
	hina	dō	hymīn	kata	to	ploutos	tēs	doxēs	autou	dynamei	krataiōthēnai
16	ἵνα	δοῦ	ὑμῖν	κατὰ	τὸ	πλοῦτος	τῆς	δόξης	αὐτοῦ ,	δυνάμει ,	κραταιωθῆναι
	that	He might give	you	according to	the	riches	of the	glory	of Him	with power	to be strengthened
	Conj	V-ASA-3S	PPro-D2P	Prep	Art-ANS	N-ANS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	PPro-GM3S	N-DFS	V-ANP

	1223 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	846 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	2080 [e]	444 [e]
	dia	tou	Pneumatōs	autou	eis	ton	esō	anthrōpon
	διὰ	τοῦ	Πνεύματος	αὐτοῦ	εἰς	τὸν	ἔσω	ἄνθρωπον ,
	by	the	Spirit	of Him	in	the	inner	man
	Prep	Art-GNS	N-GNS	PPro-GM3S	Prep	Art-AMS	Adv	N-AMS

Ephesians 3:17 – “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,”

	2730 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	1223 [e]	3588 [e]	4102 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	4771 [e]	1722 [e]	26 [e]
	katoikēsai	ton	Christon	dia	tēs	pisteōs	en	tais	kardiais	hymōn	en	agapē
17	κατοικῆσαι	τὸν	Χριστὸν	διὰ	τῆς	πίστεως	ἐν	ταῖς	καρδίαις	ὑμῶν ,	ἐν	ἀγάπῃ
	[for] to dwell	-	Christ	through	-	faith	in	the	hearts	of you	in	love
	V-ANA	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Prep	Art-GFS	N-GFS	Prep	Art-DFP	N-DFP	PPro-G2P	Prep	N-DFS

	4492 [e]	2532 [e]	2311 [e]
	errizōmenoi	kai	tethemeliōmenoi
	ἔρριζωμένοι	καὶ	τεθεμελιωμένοι ,
	being rooted	and	being founded
	V-RPM/P-NMP	Conj	V-RPM/P-NMP

Ephesians 3:18 – “may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,”

2443 [e]	1840 [e]	2638 [e]	4862 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	40 [e]	5101 [e]	3588 [e]	4114 [e]	2532 [e]	3372 [e]	
hina	exischysēte	katalabesthai	syn	pasin	tois	hagiois	ti	to	platos	kai	mēkos	
18	ἵνα	ἐξισχύσητε	καταλαβέσθαι	σὺν	πᾶσιν	τοῖς	ἁγίοις	τί	τὸ	πλάτος	καὶ	μῆκος
	so that	you may be fully able	to comprehend	with	all	the	saints	what [is]	the	breadth	and	length
	Conj	V-ASA-2P	V-ANM	Prep	Adj-DMP	Art-DMP	Adj-DMP	IPro-NNS	Art-NNS	N-NNS	Conj	N-NNS

2532 [e]	5311 [e]	2532 [e]	899 [e]
kai	hypsos	kai	bathos
καὶ	ῦψος	καὶ	βάθος ,
and	height	and	depth
Conj	N-NNS	Conj	N-NNS

Ephesians 3:19 – “and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

1097 [e]	5037 [e]	3588 [e]	5235 [e]	3588 [e]	1108 [e]	26 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	2443 [e]	
gnōnai	te	tēn	hyperballousan	tēs	gnōseōs	agapēn	tou	Christou	hina	
19	γνῶναί	τε	τὴν	ὑπερβάλλουσαν	τῆς	γνώσεως	ἀγάπην	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ ,	ἵνα
	to know	then	the	surpassing	-	knowledge	love	-	of Christ	so that
	V-ANA	Conj	Art-AFS	V-PPA-AFS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	N-AFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Conj

4137 [e]	1519 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	4138 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
plērōthēte	eis	pan	to	plērōma	tou	Theou
πληρωθῆτε	εἰς	πᾶν	τὸ	πλήρωμα	τοῦ	Θεοῦ .
you may be filled	unto	all	the	fullness	-	of God
V-ASP-2P	Prep	Adj-ANS	Art-ANS	N-ANS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

Ephesians 3:20 – “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,”

3588 [e]	1161 [e]	1410 [e]	5228 [e]	3956 [e]	4160 [e]	5228 [e]	3739 [e]	154 [e]	2228 [e]	
Tō	de	dynamenō	hyper	panta	poiēsai	hyperekperissou	hōn	aitoumetha	ē	
20	Τῷ	δὲ	δυναμένῳ	ὑπὲρ	πάντα	ποιῆσαι	ὑπερεκπερισσοῦ	ᾧ	αἰτούμεθα	ἢ
	To the [One]	now	being able	above	all things	to do	exceedingly	that	we ask	or
	Art-DMS	Conj	V-PPM/P-DMS	Prep	Adj-ANP	V-ANA	Adv	RelPro-GNP	V-PIM-1P	Conj

3539 [e]	2596 [e]	3588 [e]	1411 [e]	3588 [e]	1754 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]
nooumen	kata	tēn	dynamin	tēn	energoumenēn	en	hēmin
νοοῦμεν ,	κατὰ	τὴν	δύναμιν	τὴν	ἐνεργουμένην	ἐν	ἡμῖν ,
think	according to	the	power	-	working	in	us
V-PIA-1P	Prep	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Art-AFS	V-PPM-AFS	Prep	Pro-D1P

Ephesians 3:21 – “to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

	846 [e]	3588 [e]	1391 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	1577 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]	1519 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]
	autō	hē	doxa	en	tē	ekklēsia	kai	en	Christō	Iēsou	eis	pasas	tas
21	αὐτῷ	ἡ	δόξα	ἐν	τῇ	ἐκκλησίᾳ	καὶ	ἐν	Χριστῷ	Ἰησοῦ	εἰς	πάσας	τὰς
	to Him [be]	the	glory	in	the	church	and	in	Christ	Jesus	to	all	the
	PPro-DM3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Conj	Prep	N-DMS	N-DMS	Prep	Adj-AFP	Art-AFP

	1074 [e]	3588 [e]	165 [e]	3588 [e]	165 [e]	281 [e]
	geneas	tou	aiōnos	tōn	aiōnōn	amēn
	γενεὰς	τοῦ	αἰῶνος	τῶν	αἰώνων	· ἀμήν ·
	generations	of the	age	of the	ages	Amen
	N-AFP	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Art-GMP	N-GMP	Heb