

Sept. 30, 79 A.M.

"I am standing on the Rock of ages"
lots of people going to say - miss it.

THE EFFECTIVE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:14-21

V. 14 "I bow my knees" - Men pray under all sets of circumstances.

Times - victory, joy, Thanksgiving, conflict, discouragement, despair, hopelessness.

V. 1 - Prison - amazing power. Not a selfish prayer.

Friends - preached 18 months. For prosperity, success, spiritual victory.

To Whom? Men pray to all kinds of Gods - (Africa) little mud idol, little chicken, kill, blood spurt into this idol, sacrifice, bowing before - deaf, silent, dead God.

(Japan) Massive Buddha, people come, stop, ring the gong to get attention of their God - stop at urn and burn incense to please their God. Lay flowers in front and pray - God made of brass, eyes, ears, mouth - deaf, silent, dead.

Paul - in Prison, I write and pray to the God who breathed life into you and me, put world in exit, pray unto the Father.

V. 15 - Father of Lord Jesus Christ - Family. The (Redeemed) Takes its name from Jesus Christ - Named-Christians.

World Family - Ways men try to accomplish this:

1. Sword - make a family of the world - broke up.

2. Political Concepts - idealism - communism. Democracy.

3. Power of Christ - Christians.

Pastor from America preaching to 4,000 Russians - close sermon. I must bid you goodbye, we must go our way. I will never again see you in the flesh but I will see you one day before Our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ! ^{that} Chant, point fingers to sky, "Yes, we will all be together up there." A unity transcended all lines.

Paul - I bow my knees - pray.

Five things:

V. 16 I. INNER STRENGTH - V. 16.

Figure of (athlete) - speech. Freshmen, disciplined, weight-lifting, exercise, running plays, developes.

Inner - strong and mighty person inside. Giant outside, weak. Professional players involved hard drugs, decay morally.

Day by day - jogging - exercising.

Do something about spiritual man inside you.

Watch your inner man!

Yearbook - report denominational strength - money, etc. Inwardly - Christian duty building.

V.17 A-

II. INDWELLING CHRIST - V. 17

Picture of a house - "I pray Christ may move into the house that is you and live there."

Temple - Place where God Dwells! *Gold, it not make Solomon's Temple glorious But sub built here -*

Christ may be at home.

*Your life Temple - Have you kicked God out - Put him in Side Room -
Keds Be Center -*

Dwell - means to move in and stay, abide permanently.

Christ may come not as a guest, but dwell, live every moment in my heart by faith.

Zacchaeus could say of his Sycamore tree, "This is where I found Christ."

So, India church someone said, "Isn't it about time we tried to discover what Christ wants us to do in this matter?"

V.17 B

III. INVALUABLE FOUNDATION - V. 17B

Giant Red Wood tree - rooted - storms.

Roots run down deep - lock into the shell and clay.

Paul - I am praying - kind of life so rooted in love of God. Not be blown about in storms of life. Disappointment comes, someone fails, does wrong. You are not going to collapse.

V.18-19A

IV. INSPIRING LOVE - V. 18-19A

Limitless love - daring figure of speech!

Grasp - you may have full strength - not isolated privilege.

Picture of a scholar, a student - I pray that you may ^{Apprehend} comprehend - more than know - an absorbing of knowledge - a master scholar!

So wise, you will know all about a certain subject!

What is the subject, as a Christian, master the Bible, a subject that you can never exhaust.

(Dimensions) of Christ's love - reaches universe, Heaven, Hell.

Role of Christ.

Girl: Meg, Washington, D. D. Life alcoholism, prostitution. Tried marriage, still crawled the gutters with extra-marital adventures.

Found Christ, changed completely. Stopped drinking, swearing, saved her marriage. Looked out on the world with new eyes. Even told old friends about Jesus. Found love in the church.

"At first I thought these church people were crazy. Then I didn't care what they were. I suddenly wanted what they had."

Limitless love - cross. *Tracking Christ's love, its untrackable!*

Paul dares to scale this peak - sublime climax and ultimate goal for followers of Christ. Matt. 5:48. To be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.

There is nothing one can add to these words. Rom. 8:29.

Our final likeness to God in Christ.

(Goal) for every one of us - we want to be a whole person, to live full complete, satisfying life. That's what attracts people to him, fulness of being, fulness of God.

Church of God must be something before it does something.

Toronto, ^{attitude of world.} newspaper - "We are all right as long as the church doesn't start (talking about God)".

Karl Barth - "In the church of Jesus Christ, men speak about God and come to hear about God. About God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; about God's grace and truth; works; God's promises, Commandments; about God's kingdom (but) always about God himself."

To be filled with the fullness of God the church must be open - it's life to God.

The (central act) in the church is open up to God. No one can sit down on God and refuse to serve through His church! *Amazed, Christians can refuse some Lord's vineyard!*

Picture a vessel - empty. Now fill it with something. Some fill pride, jealousy, resentment, self-interest, etc.

I pray that all of this shall be emptied out and you may be filled with the fullness of God!

Filled, overflowing -

River - filled overflowing its banks.

Ocean - overflowing the Beach.

Cup - running over when it is filled.

You - your life, so full of goodness of God - people will look at you and say that person knows God, that is a Godly person, Paul says that is my prayer for you.

1/ Strong in the inner man. *Strength* -

2/ Like a house filled with Christ - dwells in heart. *Indwelling Christ*

3/ Like a tree rooted, grounded love. *INvaluable Foundation*

4/ Great measure of love, vessel full. *INSpiring Love*

5/ *clothed with INCarnation of God* -

What a prayer - that is what I want - what is your reply?

Tibbs Mission - Nashville. Miss Cora Tibbs started the mission, short, heavy set, plain looking, plain dress, hair pulled back, no education, money, never married, no family, brothers or sisters - all alone.

Gave herself to Lord - drifters, alcoholics, prostitutes, people in trouble. She ministered to these in the name of Jesus.

Cooked hot meals at noon - later a church sponsored.

Services - a mixture of human derelicts. They came because she loved them and to hear the Gospel. She was not a speaker but was filled with the goodness of God in her life.

Vessel of her life was running over. She went up and down alleys, talking over back fences, along the street. God's love oozing out of everything she said and did.

That kind of life makes a mark.

That kind of life is highest achievement in life.

You may achieve many other things but greatest is growth in inner strength, indwelling Christ, invaluable foundation, inspiring love, and incarnation of God clothing your life!

V. 20 - Paul aware of the greatness of blessing asked for.

Paul ascribes to God the power to do them for us. The highest aspiration is not beyond God's "Power" to bestow. And the head of his glorious church.

Real some verses Heb. 11 - Pray - Word Faith.

Kind hand "In standing on Rock of Ages"

It's all I've got -

And lots of people going to say they didn't get on this foundation!

Mark 16:7 - So, -