

# Filled with God

**Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians**

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

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# Filled with God

- This may be the most important subject I can preach about.
- Last Sunday I preached to you similarly from Revelation 3:20.
- This is the highest level of spiritual religion ... lacking today.
- It is an offer, prayer request, and promise beyond belief.
- It is not mysticism ... but close friendship with Almighty God.

# The Church at Ephesus (1)

- Ephesus was in Asia Minor, not far from the city of Laodicea.
- Paul visited the city on his second preaching trip (Acts 18:18-21).
- He then spent over two years there on his third trip (Ac 19:1-41).
- Before ending that trip he had a teary farewell (Acts 20:16-38).
- He left Aquila and Priscilla there at first then Timothy (I Tim 1:3).



*The Roman Empire*  
AFTER THE BIRTH OF JESUS

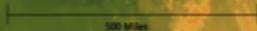
ROMAN PROVINCE

SENATORIAL PROVINCE

Principal City

Boundary of the Roman Empire

Client States



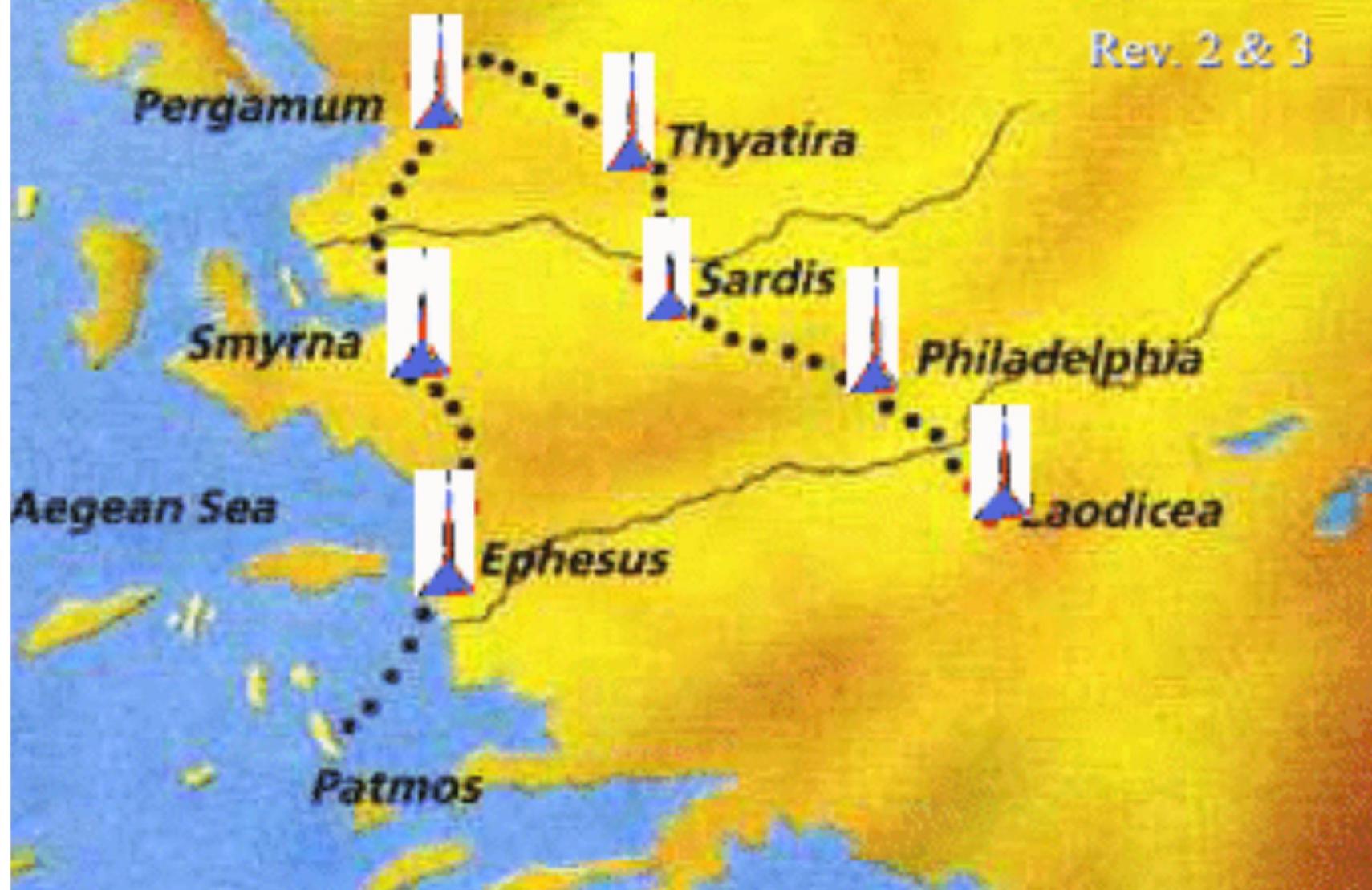
## Patmos and The Seven Churches

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1 Ephesus  | 5 Sardis       |
| 2 Smyrna   | 6 Philadelphia |
| 3 Pergamum | 7 Laodicea     |
| 4 Thyatira | P Patmos       |



# The Seven Churches of Asia

Rev. 2 & 3



# The Church at Ephesus (2)

- **Paul wrote their epistle from prison, likely Rome (Eph 6:19-20).**
- **Epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians are very similar.**
- **They were sealed with the Holy Spirit after believing (1:13-14).**
- **They were the temple home of the Spirit as a church (2:19-22).**
- **They were Gentile converts of God's great mystery (2:11 - 3:13).**

# The Church at Ephesus (3)

- **Paul prayed for spiritual improvement** (Ep 1:15-19; 3:14-19; 6:18-19).
- **They had no big issues like Corinth, Galatia, or Thessalonica.**
- **Yet Paul left Timothy there due to his doctrinal fear** (I Tim 1:3).
- **When John wrote them, they were doctrinally sound** (Rev 2:1-4,6).
- **But Jesus strongly condemned their loss of first love** (Rev 2:5).

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- **Paul had used these words to open the third chapter (3:1).**
- **The last of chapter 2 and first part of 3 were about Gentiles.**
- **Paul now began a new argument or lesson regarding Christ.**
- **What exactly is his goal? To know the love of Christ (3:16).**
- **Paul's purpose of life was for the glory of the Ephesians (3:13).**

**14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

- **We had better bow our knees literally or figuratively to God.**
- **It is good for prayer, as Paul used it here for a great request.**
- **On knees is good** (1 Kgs 8:54; 18:42; Ezra 9:5; Dan 6:10; Acts 20:36; 21:5).
- **When did you last ... how often do you ... pray on your knees?**
- **When did you last pray on your knees to walk closer to God?**

**14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

- **It is good to remember the relationship of God and Jesus.**
- **As great as Jesus is ... recall Revelation 1 ... God is greater!**
- **The ordinary and usual form of prayer is to God the Father.**
- **Jesus is our perfect Mediator and High Priest to Almighty God.**
- **Asking God in Jesus' name has His authority (John 14:13; 15:16).**

**15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

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- The words refer to either God the Father or Jesus Christ.
- But the object of Paul's prayer from 3:14 is God the Father.
- As Father of even Jesus Christ, He is certainly Father of elect.
- We are the children of God and thus named after the Father.
- Paul continued to refer to God the Father in the next verse.

**15** Of whom **the whole family** in heaven and earth is named,

- **God's elect are a family of sons to God and brothers to Jesus.**
- **God has children so that Jesus may have brethren (Rom 8:29).**
- **Jesus will present His brethren to God as children (Heb 2:11-13).**
- **Do you appreciate adoption and predestination as children?**
- **Angels are domestics to serve the heirs of God's kingdom!**

**15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

- **God's elect are mostly in heaven with some here on earth.**
- **In heaven are the spirits of just men made perfect (Heb 12:22-24).**
- **Paul already taught that God will get us all together (Eph 1:10).**
- **Jesus will not lose a single one that God gave Him (Jn 6:38-39).**
- **We are named after our Father, just as you would expect.**

**16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

**16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

- **If you ever have anything good, it is because God granted it!**
- **If you ever accomplish any good, God granted you a blessing.**
- **You know about land grants of the crown, but this exceeds!**
- **Grant. To agree or consent to a request. To bestow or confer.**
- **God has all the power and wealth – we just need His grant!**

**16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

- There is no limit to the riches of God's glory to grant anything.
- But there is a blessing so glorious it requires God's riches!
- God's glory, His majestic dominion, is greater than anything.
- Not only is He rich in glory, but also in kind grace and mercy.
- The grant of the Spirit ... much more than tongues ... is great!

**16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

- **It says of the Spirit that He moved upon the face of the waters.**
- **It says of Samson the Spirit moved him at times out of Dan!**
- **The Spirit turned the world upside down with fishermen.**
- **It is this mighty power that can strengthen the child of God.**
- **Paul prayed for this grant for Ephesus. Do you pray for it?**

**16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

- **The inner man is not directly your new nature by regeneration.**
- **Paul knew he himself had two separate natures (Rom 7:16-25).**
- **The Spirit can strengthen the inner you to greater power.**
- **It is your inner aspects of heart and spirit (3:17 cp II Cor 4:16).**
- **Ability to do anything great requires power of the Holy Ghost.**

**17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

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- **Jesus can live in the heart ... a mystery ... but not mysticism.**
- **Though bodily in heaven, He inhabits hearts by the Spirit.**
- **The Spirit is called the Spirit of God's Son (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:14-16).**
- **By faith we receive the Spirit's witness of Christ (Rom 15:13).**
- **Jesus promised this very thing to the apostles (John 14:15-18).**

**17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

- Spirit-strengthened faith will have Jesus Christ dwelling there.
- Jesus in our heads by doctrine ... or Jesus in our hearts by faith.
- Jesus in our tongues by word ... or Jesus in our hearts by faith.
- This is not faith for Christ knowledge ... but Christ's presence!
- Is this incomprehensible or unbelievable? ... It is a true fact!

**17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

- **The foundation of a Christian is knowing God's love for us.**
- **Rooted in love is a lesson from trees ... where roots are key.**
- **Grounded in love is of buildings ... where a foundation is key.**
- **What can possibly move a soul established on God's love?**
- **If you grasp your adoption, it will change your life (1 John 3:1-3).**

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**18** **May be able to comprehend** with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

- **To comprehend something is to grasp and understand it fully.**
- **Without spiritual enlightenment, you cannot know anything.**
- **The mystery of the gospel is that natural men cannot know it.**
- **Paul had already prayed once for enlightenment (Eph 1:15-19).**
- **There is no sermon, argument, music, or any natural means.**

**18** May be able to comprehend **with all saints** what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

- The desire of a godly man is for all God's children to advance.
- The common bond we all have is God's love for His children.
- After gaining spiritual heights in God's love, we should share.
- Our evangelistic efforts should progress to this top goal.
- It is this knowledge we share with Christ-lovers worldwide.

**18** May be able to comprehend with all saints **what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;**

- From the foundation we want the full structure of Christ's love.
- The breadth of His love took in even Gentiles in America!
- The length of His love stretches from election to glorification!
- The depth of His love reaches to the most depraved sinner!
- The height of His love carries those rebels to God's throne!

**19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

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- We should see its dimensions ... but know it experimentally.
- More than doctrinal knowledge ... it is intimate pleasure in it.
- Had Paul not taught them Christ's love, or is this different?
- Paul late in life was still seeking to know Christ (Phil 3:8-14).
- Some know very high feelings of love ... but this exceeds!

**19** And to know the love of Christ, **which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

- **How can you know something past knowing? By the Spirit!**
- **The human mind cannot grasp Christ's love for His people.**
- **The human experience has never seen anything like it (Is 55:8-9).**
- **Paul used this lofty form of speech elsewhere (Eph 3:8; Phil 4:7).**
- **You want love ... you think you know love ... you know nothing!**

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

- The ultimate is Spirit-enhanced knowledge of Christ's love.
- Muse on this possibility: *filled ... all ... fulness ... God!*
- A poor, weak spiritual condition is generally your neglect.
- This is the ultimate in fellowship by faith with God's presence.
- This is more than what you can muster ... the Spirit must do it!

**19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

- **It was this fellowship for full joy John described (1 John 1:1-4).**
- **Religion that offers this opportunity exceeds all else in life.**
- **The fullest measure of enjoying God's presence is by love.**
- **Paul's character was very different from most ... by this here.**
- **What heights of joy are here! What strength for depth of pain!**

**19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

- This is to have the greatest measure of God's presence.
- This is to have the greatest awareness of all that God is.
- This is to have the greatest friendship between two spirits.
- This is to know overwhelming acceptance, affection, hope.
- This is to have an overwhelming sense of God's goodness.

# Filled with God ???

- If we believe the Bible ... filled with all the fulness of God!
- The Bible clearly testifies God actively dwells in His people.
- God is infinite and you finite ... He can easily overwhelm you.
- There is overwhelming joy and peace described in the Bible.
- God as Father seeks to overwhelm His children with Himself!

**He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

**John 14:21**

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:21

- There is greater love from God than you have known before.
- There is greater love from Christ than you have known before.
- Jesus Christ will manifest Himself to you like never before.
- Jesus explained to Judas that the world cannot have this.

**Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

**John 14:23**

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**John 14:23**

- **There is greater love from God than you have known before.**
- **God and Jesus will visit you like you have not known before.**
- **God and Jesus will stay with you in this unprecedented way.**
- **This is sadly not the experience of most or many Christians.**

**What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

**I Corinthians 6:19**

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**I Corinthians 6:19**

- **Paul assumed it a given fact of the gospel the Spirit is in you.**
- **Jesus bought our bodies by His death ... the Spirit lives there.**
- **Most Christians ruin this verse by worrying about tobacco.**
- **Paul condemned moral pollution like fornication (I Cor 6:15-18).**
- **Therefore, to honor and please the Spirit we control inputs.**

**Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.**

**Romans 15:13**

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Romans 15:13

- **God is able to fill His children with all joy! How much is that?**
- **God is able to fill His children with all peace! How much?**
- **God is the God of hope ... He can make you abound in hope.**
- **How does God do this? ... by the power of the Holy Ghost.**

**And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of  
God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost  
which is given unto us.**

**Romans 5:5**

**And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

**Romans 5:5**

- **God the Holy Spirit sheds abroad the love of God in the heart.**
- **This is the fifth blessing listed by Paul flowing from faith.**
- **The Spirit tells the soul he is God's child (Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:4-6).**
- **This is no flickering candle but the sunlight of the Holy Spirit!**

# Miscellaneous Thoughts

- **God, being an infinite, invisible spirit dwells inside men.**
- **Jonathan and David loved as their own souls ... this exceeds!**
- **Men like Abraham and Asaph knew this (Gen 15:1; Ps 73:25-26).**
- **John received Christ's fullness and grace for grace (Jn 1:16)!**
- **The church is the fulness of Him that filleth all in all (Ep 1:23)!**

# Most Christians Never Experience It

- Church and religion are not personal or passionate to them.
- They have a form of godliness while loving pleasures more.
- They live carnal lives without ever fully selling out to Christ.
- They are content to warm pews and eat at church potlucks.
- What will you do for God's fullness? Do you know what to do?

# For Further Study

**Fellowship with Christ (Rev 3:20) ...** [www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/fellowship-with-christ.pdf](http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/fellowship-with-christ.pdf).

**Drawing Nigh to God ...** [www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/drawing-nigh-to-god.pdf](http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/drawing-nigh-to-god.pdf).

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