

SERMON NOTES NOVEMBER 16, 2008

Praying for People

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Introduction: American Christianity critiqued by Korean Christians

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Main Idea: The first half of Paul's letter concludes with a prayer. Paul gives an insight into his prayers for the Ephesians both for their encouragement and their example of how they ought to pray for each other. Paul's prayer has three characteristics: He

- I. Declares why he prays & to whom (vs. 14, 15)
 - "for this reason..." "The Father of the family..."
 - a slight digression
 - How God's work should prompt our prayer
 - How God's fatherhood should encourage our prayer
- II. Describes what he prays for (vs. 16-19)
 - strength that comes from God's riches & from his Spirit – the source
 - stability (rootedness) from Christ's indwelling – the stance
 - security to know Christ's love – a collective security
- III. Directs to whom their praise should go - "to Him" (vs. 20, 21)
 - Paul's prayer is Trinitarian
 - Paul's prayer is triumphant

Paul's prayer applied – a time to pray...personally and corporately

Now, our Father we pray for the _____...(household, Chapel family, the Body of Christ in our area) that they would know the strength that comes from You alone by means of Your Holy Spirit. We pray that they (we) would be rooted in the stability that comes from Christ's love. And we pray that those who live in this place (area) would be secure with all other Christians and be filled with all the fullness of God.

To You be all of our thanks and glory. Amen.
