

So wide, long, high and deep — Ephesians 3:14-19
James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 20 May 2012

Introduction (v14-16a)

- What are two apparently impossible things for which Paul prays in this passage?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
- What has been the main theme of Ephesians 3?
- What is Paul moved to do as a result in v14?
- What do we learn about the Christian family in v15?
- Why can Paul make enormous requests of God (see v16a)?

i Request One (v16b-17a)

Note: Request One is made up of two parts. Paul knows that the first part of the request must come to pass for the second part to come to pass. The first part of the request is found in v16b; the second part of the request is found in v17a.

- Thinking about the first part of the request, what, in one word, does Paul want for the Ephesians?
- Where does he want them to be strengthened?
- How will this strength come to them?
- Thinking about the second part of the request, what does Paul want for the Ephesians?
- What does this actually mean, given that the Lord dwells in all believers as soon as they come to faith?
- Why do you need the first part of the request if the second part is to come to pass?
- Do you ever pray this for yourself or for others?

ii Request Two (v17b-19)

Note: Request Two is made up of three parts. Paul knows that the first part of the request must come to pass for the second part to come to pass, and he knows that the second part of the request must come to pass for the third part to come to pass. The first part of the request is found in v17b; the second part of the request is found in v18-19a; the third part of the request is found in v19b.

- Thinking about the first part of the request, what two pictures does Paul paint?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
- What does this add up to?
- Coming to the second part of the request, what can happen when we are filled with love?
- How many dimensions does Christ's love have?
- How much of Christ's love do we actually know?
- What, then, does Paul want us to do?
- Why do some Christians live shallow Christian lives?
- What should you do if this is true of you?
- What should you do if you have never experienced Christ's love for yourself?
- Coming to the third part of the request, what can happen when we grasp Christ's love more?
- What is God's fullness?
- What is a literal translation of Paul's words here?
- So what is Paul actually praying for?
- Do you ever pray this for yourself or for others?

Conclusion

- What two challenges does this passage present us with?
 - (i)
 - (ii)