



# New Covenant

Presbyterian Church

## “AN APOSTOLIC PRAYER OF GRACE”

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

REV. NICK BATZIG

*“God works in the lives of His people in the hidden and unseen ways. When it doesn’t look like God’s at work, be assured that He is at work.” – Nick Batzig*

### A. WHY PAUL PRAYS

1. PAUL’S GREATNESS IS BEST UNDERSTOOD THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS CONFINED IN CHAINS IN PRISON. THOUGH HE WAS A PRISONER, HE WAS NOT CONFINED TO A PRAYERLESS LIFE.

2. HOW PAUL PRAYS: AFTER EXPOUNDING ON ALL OF THE BLESSINGS FOUND IN CHRIST, PAUL PRAYS. THE TRUTHS OF GOD AND CHRIST SHOULD ALSO FUEL OUR PRAYERS. FERVENT PRAYER HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE BOWED LOW. WHEN WE ARE FRANTIC AND STRUGGLING WITH SIN, THEN OUR EYES ARE NOT FIXED ON JESUS AND THE CROSS.

*“The Gospel of grace produces in us a humility that causes us to bow down low.” – Sinclair Ferguson*  
*“The more sanctified a person is the more heavily weighted his prayer time is in adoration.” – R.C. Sproul*

### B. TO WHOM PAUL PRAYS

1. PAUL PRAYS TO GOD THE FATHER IN REVERENCE AND HUMILITY AND IN ADORATION OF THE ADOPTION WE HAVE IN CHRIST. HE IS ENAMORED BY THE IDEA OF SONSHIP. WHEN WE STOP THINKING ABOUT GOD AS OUR FATHER THEN WE’LL START THINKING OF HIM AS A HARSH TASK MASTER. WE ARE ALL A PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD AND HAVE ONE FATHER OVER ALL.

### C. FOR WHAT PAUL PRAYS

*“That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” – Ephesians 3:16-19*

1. PAUL PRAYS FOR STRENGTH. BELIEVERS CAN’T BEAR THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GLORY OF GOD ON THEIR OWN, SO THE SPIRIT INDWELLS US. HE HAS TO BEAR US UP AND STRENGTHEN US.

2. IT SHOULD NOT BE A RARE THING TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GOD AT WORK IN OUR LIVES.

3. WHY PRAY FOR STRENGTH? THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS. THE GREAT GOAL IS TO BE ROOTED IN CHRIST.

4. JESUS’ LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE IS SO GREAT IT’S HARD FOR US TO WRAP OUR MINDS AROUND IT.

*“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”*  
*Romans 8:32*

5. PAUL’S PRAYER IS NOT ALL ABOUT HOW WE BENEFIT. GOD DOES ALL FOR HIS GLORY. THE GRACE OF GOD IS WIDE AND DEEP AND CAN ALWAYS DO DEEPER. IT IS SHALLOW ENOUGH FOR THE WEAKEST BELIEVER AND DEEP ENOUGH FOR THE STRONGEST SAINT. WE SHOULD PRAY PAUL’S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE CONGREGATION.