

Ephesians Series

Ephesians 3:1-21

A New Prayer List

Questions or responses to the sermon this morning?

1. How can a person develop a deeper appreciation of God's abundant grace in salvation and the Christian life?
2. What practical effect would it have if Christians realized that their daily behavior was revealing something to the rulers in the heavenly places v.10?
3. Discuss: Prayer is not an intercom to call the maid for more refreshments, but a walkie-talkie to the general from the front lines for more resources for the battle (adapted from John Piper). How would this change your prayer life?
4. How would following Paul's prayer (Ephesians 3) as a model change the way you pray?
5. What ways (methods) has God used to strengthen you in your inner person?
6. In what ways and in what circumstances have you experienced God's power? Emotionally, Spiritually, Relationally...
7. Which "rooms" in your house seem difficult to turn over to the Lordship of Jesus; which ones seemed easier? (My Heart - Christ's Home) How might a good friend be helpful?
8. How can a person from an abusive background learn to love God and others in a biblical way if receiving love precedes giving love?
9. What does it mean to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit? Describe practically how you do it.

10. How can we pray in faith ([Mark 11:22-24](#)) when we can't know God's sovereign will for certain in advance?
11. Put yourself in the place of the apostle John. Your brother is executed, while Peter is miraculously freed. How would you feel? How would you process your confusion over this?
12. Some claim that if we have faith in God, He *must* answer our prayers. Why might this be wrong? (See [Heb. 11:33-39](#).)

“My Heart, Christ's Home” [IVP] condensed.

Robert Munger tells of how after Christ entered his heart, in the joy of that newfound relationship, he said, “Lord, I want this heart of mine to be yours. I want to have you settle down here and be perfectly at home. Everything I have belongs to you. Let me show you around and introduce you to the various features of the home so that you may be more comfortable and that we may have fuller fellowship together.”

So, he took Christ into the study or library, which represents the things that the mind focuses on. The Lord had a bit of cleanup work to do there, getting rid of books and magazines, as well as some shameful pictures on the wall.

They moved on to the dining room, which represented eating worldly fare rather than doing the will of God. Worldly pleasures do not satisfy in the long run. Our food should be to do His will.

From there, they moved to the sitting room. It had a fireplace, overstuffed chairs, a bookcase, and a quiet atmosphere. They agreed to meet there each morning to start the day together. At first, they spent some wonderful hours there. But then, as pressures mounted, the time began to be shortened. Then, Munger got so busy that he started skipping these times. One morning as he was rushing out the door, he saw that the door to the drawing room was ajar. There was a fire in the fireplace and the Lord was sitting in there alone. He said, “Master, have you been here all these mornings?” “Yes,” said the Lord, “I told you that I would be here every morning to meet with you.” The Lord went on to explain that the problem was, Munger viewed the quiet time only as a means for his own

spiritual progress, rather than as a time to meet and fellowship with the living Lord.

They moved on to the workshop, where the Lord showed him how He could work through him to produce good works.

Then, the Lord asked about the playroom. He was hoping that the Lord wouldn't bring that up. There were certain friendships and activities that he just didn't feel comfortable inviting the Lord to join in. But finally he realized that he would have no joy unless the Lord remodeled that room of the house also.

He thought that the Lord had finally finished the remodeling and was comfortable living there. But then one day he came home to find the Lord waiting at the door. He said, "There is a peculiar odor in the house. There is something dead in here, in the hall closet." Munger knew about that closet, but he had the key to it and wanted to keep it off limits. He certainly didn't want Christ to see what was in there. In fact, he was angry that Christ had mentioned it. After all, he had given the Lord access to the library, the dining room, the sitting room, the workshop, and the playroom. Now He was trying to pry into a small closet! He thought, "This is too much! I'm not going to give him the key!" But the Lord said, "Well, I can't stay in here with that foul odor. I'll make my bed out on the porch until this is cleaned up. Munger says, "When you have come to know and love Christ, the worst thing that can happen is to sense his fellowship retreating from you. I had to surrender. 'I'll give you the key,' I said sadly, 'but you'll have to ... clean it out. I haven't the strength to do it.'" The Lord said, "I know you haven't. Just give me the key and authorize me to take care of it and I will."

Finally, Munger signed over the title deed to the Lord and said, "You run the house!" That's how God works in our hearts. He wants to move from room to room until every area of our lives is suitable for His dwelling place.

Might you need to talk to God about cleaning & renovating your life? Please ask for help if you need it.