

The Inner Man, part 15

- I.** Review of Paul's summarization of his communication to the Father regarding the Ephesians, he asks: (Eph. 3:13-19).
 - 1. That they be strengthened in the inner man (v. 16).
 - 2. That Christ "settle down at home" in their hearts (v. 17).
 - 3. That they be grounded by love (v. 17).
 - 4. That they mentally grasp the four dimensions from the viewpoint of the inner man (v. 18 *cf.* 2 Cor. 4:16, "outer man").
- II.** Paul goes on to ask that they experientially know/practice the love of The Christ (v. 19).
 - 1. The Christ (1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:15; 5:23; Jn. 13:34-35).
 - 2. The New Commandment, love the basis for being:
 - 1) Grounded, foundation for growth—rooted (v. 17).
 - 2) Experiential knowledge, put into practice (v. 17).
- III.** Paul asks that they be filled with all the fullness from God (v. 19).
 - 1. Not like the selective filling in Old Testament (Ex. 35:31, 35; 36:1; Duet. 34:9).
 - 2. Not like the complete metal control filling during the transition from the Old to New Testament (Lu. 1:15; Acts 2:4; 13:9- the last use of this word, **πλήθω, πίμπλημι**, regarding the Holy Spirit; Green p. 145).
 - 3. New Testament filling, **πληρόω**, means "make up what is lacking, Green p. 148."
 - 1) An example of "filling's" meaning, not involving the Holy Spirit—Christian giving (Phil. 4:15-19).
 - 2) It is the Holy Spirit Who fills, makes up what is lacking in the Christian's thinking: thought—counter thought (Eph. 5:18; 3:16; 2 Cor. 7:3; Eph. 1:23; Gal. 5:16-17).
 - 4. Spirit filling takes place in the inner man.
 - 1) Provides mental strength (Eph. 3:16).
 - 2) Is coupled with practicing love (Eph. 3:17).
 - 3) Gives a mental comprehension that surpasses, goes beyond experiential knowledge (Eph. 3:18-19).