Knowing the Unknowable Love of Christ
Ephesians 3:14-21
September 20, 2020

First Request: Strength

With power through the Spirit in the inner being: v.16
You may have strength to comprehend: v.18
According to the power at work within us: v.20
Where: in the inner person: v.16,20
What: presence of Spirit (16), synonymous with presence of Christ (17)
How: rooted and grounded: v.17

Strength for What?

To comprehend what is the height, width, depth and length
To know the love of Christ (for us and the world)
What does it mean "to know"?
To encounter over and above merely conceptualizing
Semitic knowing as encounter
Paul wants to know Christ in Phil 3:10
The limits of conceptualization when stargazing
When something is too big for conceptualization, encounter provides real knowledge
This is how we "know" something that is "unknowable"
Why do we need strength to encounter the love of Christ?
Molten steel in cardboard containers
Too much gravel in the back of the pick up
The love of Christ too large, too dense, too fierce to be encountered unaided
The story of God and Moses in Exodus 33:13-23
Jesus is our Rock who has made us able to receive the fierce love of God!!

Fullness

Fullness of God: His presence, His power, His riches, His love
What happens when you put a large amount in a small container?
It (1) fills up and (2) overflows
The quest to be filled is the human quest: thirst, desire, need, drive us
The tragedy of filling up with wrong stuff is two fold: Jeremiah 2:13
Augustine: You have made us for Yourself; we are restless until we find our rest in You
God is able to effect this impossible filling: v.20
How does knowing the love **of** Christ result in Glory **to** Christ?
The overflow effect
 It turns us into love-spillers!
Others are splashed with Jesus-love and are shown to turn to Him for fullness

Farrells Ice Cream Parlor: 1980

An unforgettable encounter with the love of Christ
Why have I not sustained direct consciousness with it since?
A down payment toward the reality to which we are headed