

Ephesians Study 5/15/24

Key Scripture Ephesians 3:8 – 21 [8](#)Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9](#)and to illuminate for everyone the stewardship of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. [10](#)His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, [11](#)according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[12](#)In Him and through faith in Him we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. [13](#)So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. [14](#)... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15](#)from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. [16](#)I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, [17](#)so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18](#)will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth [19](#)of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

[20](#)Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, [21](#)to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1. Ephesians 3:8 [8](#)Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

- a. “Less than the least of the saints”, Paul is humbling himself because He used to murder Christians in ignorance.
- b. Paul is not using this language to gain points with the Ephesians He really see’s himself as the least of the Christians. This is an amazing transformation that God brought to pass in Paul’s life. God can change your view of yourself. If you struggle with pride God can deliver you as well.
- c. “unsearchable riches” is better translated as incomprehensible riches or “not fully understood” Paul is saying God’s grace allowed Him to understand the fullness of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished for us. He is again referencing that the revelations He has been given were once sealed mysteries.

2. Ephesians 3:9 9and to illuminate for everyone the stewardship of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

- a. Paul’s mission was to open the eyes of the people and their personal responsibility to the mission of the proclamation of the gospel.
- b. The mission of the worldwide evangelization of the world through the church was kept hidden by God himself.

3. Ephesians 3:10-11 10His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the **rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms**, 11according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- a. The church does not wrestle against human entities but human entities who are ultimately controlled and deceived through demonic spirits in the heavenly realms. The Church through its work, is God’s vindication among his enemies.
- b. We cannot defeat spiritual enemies with earthly tools or means. Through the Holy Spirit we have been given powerful weapons for spiritual warfare.

4. Ephesians 3:12-15 12In Him and through faith in Him we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. 13So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. 14... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

- a. The eternal purpose of God was to restore mankind so that we may again have access to God to dwell where He dwells in boldness and confidence.
- b. Paul is encouraging the Ephesian church that his sufferings are a part of God's plan and ultimately is for their benefit. Can you imagine the spiritual maturity it takes to see life the way that Paul has chosen to see it.
- c. In essence Paul has developed such a selfless love for the church that He considers it a blessing to suffer for their benefit.
- d. Paul let's the Ephesian church in on His prayer life for them. We learn how to better pray for others in the church though following Paul's' example.

5. Ephesians 3:16-19 16I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth 19of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- a. We need to be strengthened with Power in our Spirit so that we are not moved from doing what is right, good, and holy in the world. Remember every day we are bombarded by our adversaries' attacks.

- b. Vs 17: So that you may have the courage to live in and for Christ by faith, that Jesus would be near to you since your hearts are firmly planted in Him not wavering in unbelief.
- c. Vs17 with Christ in you, with full faith you will be settled in God's love for you. It's hard to serve God if you don't know or experience His love in your life consistently.
- d. "Have Power to comprehend the love of Christ.
- e. Jesus love surpasses knowledge, you must experience it to truly know it.

6. Ephesians 3:20 20 Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us,

- a. **Immeasurably more: Greek ὑπὲρ (hyper) or hyperekperissou** and this is a rare word that expresses in greatest terms God's ability to bring abundance and overflowing into your life.
- b. There is a emphasis in Ephesians 3:20 from the Apostle Paul who wants to assure the Church that God's plans are vastly superior than our own.
- c. We should ask and leave the door open that we sometimes are asking far below God's ability to accomplish.
- d. Key Point: If we are going to accomplish something in the Kingdom and we want to have the assurance of God's name being a part of it, we should be sure that the work being accomplished is done to such a quality, such a magnitude, such an excellence that their can be no mistaking that God was the author of it, the sustainer of it and the one who ultimately accomplished it.
- e. Sometimes I believe we limit God by believing for far too little. We often stop at the junction of the limitations of what we can humanly do and the beginning of what God can do.

- f. God will often step in only once we have exhausted our own earthly abilities.
- g. God does this because He alone deserves the glory and the honor and the praise.

7. Ephesians 3:21 21to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- a. God can only use our lives to the degree that He gets all the glory. Be sure to be someone who gives God the praise for the work, and never take the praise that is due God.
- b. There is an honor and praise that is due to man, and there is a honor and praise that belongs exclusively to God, we must protect ourselves from standing in a place that belongs only to God.
- c. **John 5:43-44** 43I have come in My Father's name, and you have not received Me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44How can you believe if you accept **glory from one another, yet do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?**

8. Conclusion: God will glorify His servants in Heaven when we see Him. We will behold his glory, and because we are partakers of Salvation and participants in the work of the gospel we will be clothed in similar glory. We will be like Christ in many aspects, perfectly prepared to spend eternity with Him. What seems so unimaginable today will be accomplished and possible when we meet Him face to face. NEVER forget your greatest days are ahead of you always.