

# L88 | Ephesians | "Comprehend the Fulness of Christ" | Eph. 3:14-21

## I. Intro/Review:

**For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

**{Ephesians 3:14-15}**

1. **"For this cause"**
  - for you Gentiles
  - prisoner
  - the eternal purpose of God in Christ
  - all men see - make known the manifold wisdom of God unto principalities and powers in heavenlies
2. **"I bow my knees"**
  - Prayer
  - Posture of heart
3. **"unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"**
  - Father of our Lord Jesus Christ - Davidic Covenant to execute divine family and government in Christ
4. **"of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"**
  - Named in the Father through Jesus Christ
  - The whole family in heaven and earth - effectual working of His power

**That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;**

**{Ephesians 3:16-17a}**

1. **"That He would grant you - to be strengthened with might"** (Eph. 1)
  - **"according to the riches of His glory"** - eternal purpose in Christ counseled and working all things after the counsel of that will
  - **"by His Spirit"** - the Holy Spirit revealing the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him
  - **"in the inner man"** - the location of the strengthening with might
2. **"that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;"**
  - The Spirit strengthening your inner man with might according to the riches of His glory results in Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith.
    1. **"Christ dwelling"** isn't the Spirit of God dwelling, but rather the work of the Spirit's teaching ministry of the Father's spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him through Christ to have Christ dwell in your hearts.
    2. **"in your hearts"** - in your inner man

- Christ in you - Christ in your heart (in view of your heart)

3. **"by faith"** - works effectually and toward them that believe (Eph. 1)

## II. Preview:

1. Rooted and Grounded in Love
2. May be Able to Comprehend
  1. Breadth
  2. Length
  3. Depth
  4. Height

## III. Sermon:

**That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;"**  
 {Ephesians 3:16-18}

### 1. Rooted and Grounded in Love - "that ye, being rooted and grounded in love"

- "that ye," - leads to "may be able to comprehend"
- Before the, "may be able to comprehend" Paul inserts "being rooted and grounded in love"
  - Eph. 1:17-18 - "...may give unto the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know..."
- What does it mean to be "rooted and grounded in love"?
  1. Not the only time used - Colossians 2:7 - "rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abound therein with thanksgiving."
  2. Foundational, principle
    1. **Rooted** - husbandmen, agriculture
      - 1.1 - Not only "planted" or "sown" but "rooted"
        - Romans 6:5 - "For if we have been **planted together** in the likeness of His death" [united with, born together with, of joint origin]
        - Rom. 15:12 - "root of Jesse"
        - Matt. 15:13 - "...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."

- Matt. 13:21 - "Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."
- Luk. 8:13 - "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away."

1.2 - The issue of the first things first in order to bear fruit

2. **Grounded** - edification, architecture

2.1 - To lay the foundation, to provide stability - 1 Cor. 3 - Christ the foundation

- Matt. 7:25 - "...for it was founded upon a rock."
- 1 Pet. 5:10 - "...after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

2.2 - Power to stablish - Rom. 1:11, 6:25

3. **In Love**

3.1 - All things done for you when you were yet a sinner - Rom. 5

3.2 - All things done for you when you believed the gospel

3.3 - Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

- Love of God in Christ

3. This "rooted" and "grounded" is the preparation for

1. Growing and bearing fruit
2. Building and furnishing

4. Romans-Galatians is the doctrine of the "rooting" and "grounding" in view the death, burial, and resurrection.

2. **May be Able to Comprehend**

1. **"may be able"** - active verb, action of us

2. **"comprehend"** - to lay hold of; to seize upon, to take possession of (taken - woman taken in adultery), to make one's own;

- Translated - come upon, taken, perceive, found, attained
- Jn. 1:5 - "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not"
- Php. 3:12 - "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

3. Something for us to further "comprehend" then that which is associated with "being rooted and grounded in love".
  - The knowledge of Ephesians builds upon being rooted and ground in love. It strengthens us and provides us to "comprehend" more.
4. Comprehend what when we are strengthened with might by the Spirit in our inner man to have Christ dwell in our hearts by faith?
  - Breadth, length, depth, height - but the breadth, length, depth, and height of what?
  - Christ and His love - comprehending the incomprehensible
    - **"increasing in the knowledge of God"**
      1. **The World**
      2. **Christ**
      3. **Filling the Believer**
  - The breadth is as large as the length, depth, and height

1. **Breadth of Christ and His Love**

- All (universal) - all over, everywhere,
- All spiritual blessings...all wisdom...all things...all principality, and power, and might, and dominion...every name that is named...every creature...every man...all saints...all men...all in all...all the building...all the fulness...all that we ask or think...all ages...all lowliness and meekness...Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all...able to quench all...praying always with all prayer...with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...shall make known to you all things...grace be with you all...every good work ...every knee...every tongue...all grace...all sufficiency

2. **Length of Christ and His Love**

- Eternal
- Ordained before the world...eternal purpose...from before the foundation of the world...dispensation of the fulness of times...ages to come...world without end.

3. **Depth of Christ and His Love**

- Hidden - Dark - Amount
- Mystery...depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge...unsearchable judgments, and his ways past finding out...kept secret since the world began...hidden wisdom...deep things of God...mystery of His will...exceeding greatness of His power...mighty power...under His feet...hid in God...not made known to the sons of men in other ages...your life is hid...great love...rich in mercy...far off...called uncircumcision...aliens...strangers...having no hope...when we were enemies...dead in trespasses and sins...children of wrath...ignorant...blind...past feeling...given themselves over to uncleanness...were sometimes darkness...unsearchable riches...exceeding riches...filled with all the fulness of God...fulness of times...fulness of Him that filleth all in all...the measure of the stature of the fulness of

Christ...descended into the lower parts of the earth

#### 4. Height of Christ and His Love

- Heavenly
- High calling...in heavenly places...laid up for you in heaven...conversation is in heaven...gave Him to be the head over all...firstborn...preeminence...far above all heavens...ascended up on high...spiritual wickedness in high places...made nigh...quickened us together...raised us up together...made us sit together...builded together...filled will all the fulness of God...fulness of times...fulness of Him that filleth all in all...the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

#### IV. Conclusion:

- **If He is your breadth what more abundance do you need**
- **If He is your length what end to you see**
- **If He is your depth what can get you down**
- **If He is your height what do you further need**