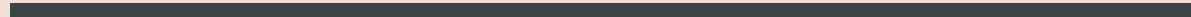


EXPERIENCING GOD'S VAST LOVE

Ephesians 3:17-21

Outline:

- 1. Grasping the Ungraspable (V. 18)**
- 2. Knowing the Unknowable (V. 19)**
- 3. Imagining the unimaginable (VV. 20-21)**



¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1. GRASPING THE UNGRASPABLE

¹⁸ “...may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth (of God’s love)...”

Katalambano:

Mark 9: a demon “seizing” a body

John 8: a woman “caught” in adultery

John 12: darkness will not “overtake” someone

1 Thess: Beware unless judgment day “surprise” or “ambush” you

This comprehension is experiential not academic

If The truth of God's incomprehensible love did seize you like this, How do you think it would alter what you love?

Paul uses four infinite dimensions to describe God's love:

3. The Height of God's Love: "hypsos" tied to the prefix "hyper" meaning over, beyond, completely surpassing....it refers to height, loftiness, or high position
4. The Depth of God's Love: "bathos" -- deep water, inexhaustible abundance, mysteries beyond understanding

II. KNOWING THE UNKNOWNABLE (V. 19)

“...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...”

“You can truly enter into and swim in the ocean of Christ's love, but you can never reach its bottom or outline its shores. No matter how long a person walks in faith, there is always an inexhaustible depth of grace, forgiveness, and affection left to discover.”

Paul adds: *“that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

III. Imagining the Unimaginable... (V. 20)

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (imagine), according to the power at work within us...”

The Greek is amazing:

“Perissos” – abundant, overflowing, more than enough

“ek” – “out of, meaning not bounded

**“huper” – tied to the prefix “hyper” meaning, over,
above, supreme, completely surpassing**

**When stacked like this it carries the weight, “super-
abundantly over and above anything of human
imagination**

**It tells us that our highest prayers (*all we ask*)
and our wildest imaginations (all we think or
imagine) are merely the very basic things that
God is actually capable of**

It is all V. 20, “...*according to the power that works in us.*”

What is the power generator?

It is the same power noted in V. 16: “...*the strengthening power through His Spirit in the inner man.*”

It is resurrection power working in us, Holy Spirit Power.

THREE QUESTIONS TO CHEW ON THIS WEEK

1. If you were asked to produce evidence of God's active love in your life this past week, what would that be? How can you be better prepared to give evidence next time you are asked?
2. Because as men we are prone to isolate or only engage in comfortable circles; where are you most tempted to put up impenetrable walls? How can the dimensions of God's love tear down those walls?
3. In what ways have your prayers and life's struggles underestimated God's love?