

Immeasurably More

Living Life for The Praise of His Glory: A Study of the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The world has been changed by letters written from prison. From Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letters From a Birmingham Jail* to Nelson Mandela's letters from Robben Island Prison to family and government officials demanding an end to apartheid in South Africa; from Corey ten Boom's letters written from Ravensbrück concentration camp in Germany to Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Letters and Papers from Prison* written from Tegel Prison in North Berlin; from William Tyndale's letters while imprisoned in a castle near Brussels to *Pilgrim's Progress* written during John Bunyan's imprisonment in a Bedford jail in England – God has used places of isolation, incarceration, and unjust captivity to speak fresh inspiration to weary and worn followers, and through them the gospel has been advanced, and the world has been changed.

While in custody under house arrest, chained 24 hours of every day to a rotation of Praetorian Guards under Nero's command, the Apostle Paul wrote letters, letters from a Roman jail. One of those letters was addressed to Christians, "God's holy people," living in Ephesus.

Focus: Ephesians 3:1-21

- I. Unplanned Detours, Unexpected Crisis, and Unjust Captivity Can Lead to Places of Fresh Inspiration, Fervent Intercession, and Penetrating Proclamation (3:13).
 - A. Paul's Aspiration Was to Take the Gospel to Spain.
 - B. Paul's Dislocation Was Occasioned by an Arrest in Jerusalem.
 - C. Paul's Incarceration in Rome Led to Intercession and Proclamation of the Gospel.
- II. God's Grace Is Unsearchable (3:7-8).
 - A. Grace is Unlimited, Unmerited, Undeserved Favor.
 1. The source of grace is God.
 2. The scope of grace is the world.
 3. The sufficiency of grace includes every human need.
 - B. Grace Defined the Ministry Entrusted to Paul (3:7).
 - C. Grace Was the Mystery Revealed to Paul (3:6, 8-9).

III. God's Love Is Immeasurable (3:17-19).

- A. The Broadness of His Love Encompasses All Humankind.
- B. The Length of His Love Lasts for All Eternity.
- C. The Height of His Love Reaches to Heaven.
- D. The Depth of His Love Extends to the Lowest Depths of Depravity.

IV. God's Power Is Unlimited (3:20-21).

- A. God Is Able.
- B. God Is Able "To Do."
- C. God Is Able "To Do What We Ask."
- D. God Is Able "To Do More Than We Ask."
- E. God Is Able "To Do Immeasurably More Than All We Ask or Imagine."
- F. God's Ability "To Do *for Us* Is According to the Power at Work *Within Us*."