



The Book of Ephesians

Lesson 3: Chapter 3 – Preservation – The ongoing reality of our salvation

1. The mystery of the Gospel given to Paul

Ephesians 3:1

Paul is writing this while in prison. He explains that what he is doing is worth going to prison.

He was not in prison because he accidentally did the wrong thing or because the devil was the lord of his life. He is in jail because Jesus is Lord of his life, and that was worth going to jail over.

Ephesians 3:2

God gave Paul the responsibility of being a steward of something very valuable.

He had to protect it, disseminate it, and make sure it had a legacy.

Ephesians 3:3-13

Paul's message was _____ . This was his stewardship.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Galatians 2:20

Paul had a gospel. It was given to him by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 1:11, 12

Paul's gospel is not of human origin. It came directly from Jesus.

Definition of REVELATION: _____

Jesus pulled the veil back for Paul.

1 Corinthians 9:16, 17

God entrusted Paul with a stewardship.

Colossians 1:25

Paul's stewardship was to fulfill (complete) the Word of God. The revelation that was given to Paul was "Christ in you".

It was a secret, or a mystery, kept hidden by God, but then revealed to Paul.

Colossians 1:26

Definition of MYSTERY: _____

Paul's epistles are about this mystery.

Romans 16:25

God had a secret that He revealed to Paul.

God gave pieces of the mystery in the Old Testament.

God gave the final piece to Paul.

The secret was "Christ in you" or that Jesus would live inside of people!

Ephesians 3:8, 9

God kept it a secret until the Holy Spirit came to explain it to us.

The people of the Old Testament had God with them, we have God in us!

The mystery is "Christ in you!"

2. The Jews and the Gentiles brought together in Christ

This is the theme of chapter two. Paul continues to write about this in chapter three.

Ephesians 3:6

Paul gives three reasons why the Gentiles are completely equal with Jews. These were revelations that were worth his time in prison.

- _____

In Galatians 3, he makes the same argument of being of the same seed of Abraham. You are not a stepchild. You have no less favor, no less grace, no less heritage, no less privilege.

Galatians 3:7-9

Galatians 3:13, 14

Galatians 3:26-29

- _____

Not only do you have an inheritance, but you fit in now.

- _____

The promise now and in the future belongs to us because we have been grafted in and are partakers.

3. Boldness in prayer

Ephesians 3:12

Definition of BOLDNESS: Unashamed speech that is associated with joy and courage

Definition of CONFIDENCE: Absolute confidence. The word indicates completely persuaded and trustful to the point where no doubt remains.

4. Another prayer in Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-19

This prayer is the passion of the Father for you.

Ephesians 3:14, 15

Everything that has life derives its name from the Father.

“Name” means identity.

People who struggle with insecurity simply need to know the love of the Father!

There are so many Christians who are fighting for a sense of identity and purpose.

Your identity and purpose are found in the perfect love of the Father!

The problem has been that the love of the Father has been a point in theology and doctrine rather than in an encounter.

Ephesians 3:16

Ephesians 3:16 – Amplified Bible

May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality].

Out of His rich treasury, which is His glory, there is an impartation of strength for my inner man.

What is the glory? – _____

Paul is talking about a people who know their God, not theoretically, but experientially.

A person without an encounter with God is stuck with a belief system that may or may not work.

Doctrine is good. We all need good doctrine and Bible teaching. But along with the truth of God's Word and doctrine, I need an encounter with God!

It is impossible to encounter the Almighty God and be unchanged.

An encounter with God transforms a person.

Ephesians 3:17, 18

Paul is praying that church would have an encounter with God and we would be able to comprehend the love of God.

Definition of COMPREHEND: _____

Ephesians 3:18 – Amplified Bible

That you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it];

A better word would be to _____ the love of God.

“Comprehend” implies knowing something with your mind. But the Greek word means “apprehend” which implies grabbing ahold of something by experience.

It is like a wide receiver making an amazing catch in a football game. They apprehend the ball.

God does not want us to only understand His love through good Bible teaching and knowledge. He wants us to experience it.

The invitation from the Father is this – “Come and grab hold of that which will grab hold of you and never let go!”

Ephesians 3:18, 19

Ephesians 3:19 – Amplified Bible

[That you may really come] to know [practically, [a]through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!

This is a prophetic prayer that Paul prayed. It has not happened yet.

There will be a people that, because of their encounter with God, will be wholly filled and flooded with God Himself.

There will be a people who have apprehended the love of the Father and have had an experience with God that goes beyond doctrine, teaching, and knowledge – who will become wholly filled and flooded with God Himself!

Ephesians 3:19

Definition of TO KNOW: It is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew word that said – “Adam KNEW Eve and she bore a son.”

5. The conclusion of chapter three.

Ephesians 3:20

Definition of EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY:

- Superabundant (in quantity) or superior (in quality)
- _____
- _____
- More abundantly
- Very highly, beyond measure

Definition of ABOVE:

- Over

- _____

- Beyond

- _____

- More than

God can do this according to the power that is at work in us. That power is the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is no limit to what God can do.

Ephesians 3:21

Where does God want to show His glory? – _____

Those members who are fellow heirs, members, and partakers of the stewardship and the grace of God.

One of the best demonstrations of the grace of God is when very different people come together in the church in unity because we are so in love with Christ. We are honored that He would save us and we submit to His leadership and join with Him as He shows off His church.

This is a vision and a revelation that Paul was having.

It was a revelation that the church was an extension of the nature of Christ where Christ reigns in His church so that He might reign through His church.