

*Paul's Letter to  
The Ephesians*



**Lesson 3-The Unsearchable Riches of Christ**

**Focus: Ephesians 3:1-21**

**1. The mystery of the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ! (v.1-5)**

- a. (v.1-3) Paul here speaks of the glorious revealing of Jesus Christ which was shown to him for the sake of winning many souls into God's Kingdom (especially from among the Gentiles). We are able to read about Paul's experience with this glorious Revelation in other parts of Scripture such as in the book of Acts. God stopped Paul in his tracks and his heart was converted to Jesus Christ. Paul realized he'd been fighting against the Almighty God (by persecuting the followers of Jesus Christ); though he'd been doing so without realizing that he was fighting against God. Now Paul refers to that experience and how God called him to be His Apostle to the Gentiles. Christ was revealed in a most glorious manner to Paul and it was now his duty and joy to share about Jesus. The gospel of Jesus Christ had been directly revealed to Paul by God himself (ref. Acts 22:1-21; Galatians 1:11-24).
- b. (v.3) Apparently, Paul had written something before to these believers in Ephesus, although we do not have a copy of that letter today.
- c. (v.4,5) The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ had not been revealed in past ages as brightly and gloriously as it was now revealed to the believers after the time of Christ's coming in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. The gospel had been revealed in types, figures, and prophecies of the future event ever since the entrance of sin into our world—but now, **the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ had been revealed in the fullness of its reality!! Jesus—the long awaited Messiah had actually come!!** God has now "spoken unto us by his son" (Hebrews 1:1-3; Luke 2:25-32; 1 Peter 1:10-13).

**2. Speaking of and contemplating the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (v.6-12)**

- a. (v.7,8) **To preach "the unsearchable riches of Christ"** Paul felt keenly his inadequacy. **Such amazing "riches" in Christ we can barely begin to fathom them!!** Paul felt so overly honored to have such an opportunity to share, though he felt a certain unworthiness to bear such eternal truth unto the world. God is so holy, so good, so righteous and true. And yet, we are so unworthy in comparison to His greatness. And in our sins, we are entirely unworthy to share such a blessed message of truth. But, it is by the grace of God through Jesus Christ that our sins have been forgiven us, and Christ has given us the power in Him to be overcomers. By His grace and mercy, and for His honor and glory, and the redemption of souls, Christ enables us to be workers in His vineyard, made clean by the blood of the Lamb—Jesus!!
- b. (v.6) Through Christ, the gentiles are now made "fellow heirs" and they are brought into "one body" with those of the Jewish believers who also received Jesus Christ. (See Galatians 3:29 also).
- c. (v.9,10) **The Gospel work now** (which Paul was doing, and others are to do as well) **is to help all men to "see" the power and the goodness of Christ's gospel—to understand God's blessed plan to rescue all men from the sin, darkness, and death of this world!** The amazing truth of God has been hidden in Him until he revealed His Son unto the world. All things were not only redeemed by Christ, but originally created by Christ as well (ref. John 1:1-3,14). Jesus is the living WORD of God—spoken at Creation to make all things. Jesus is God! He owns us twice now, by Creation, and by Redemption (the price of His blood to buy us back).
- d. (v.10) **All of heaven now stands in amazement at the "manifold wisdom of God"** through what He has done for fallen mankind. **The transformed lives of once-sinful men bears witness to the glory and**

**power of God to save fallen men.** The angel's rejoice over God's work to save us from our sins (Luke 15:10)—Yes, even for **one sinner whose saved!!**

- e. (v.11-13) **God had an "eternal purpose" to save and deliver us from our sins.** God had been looking down through the ages at eternity and at the value of even one human life. God saw past man's terrible fall into sin. He saw past our sinfulness—**not for what we were as sinners, but for what we might become through Christ!!** This is the "manifold wisdom of God" (v.10), the "eternal purpose" which He had in mind; that He might save us from our wicked sins, and not leave us merely to perish in death without a hope (See John 3:16). **Now we may have "boldness" to come unto God the Father through Jesus Christ** (Hebrews 4:14-16; John 14:6). Paul desired that none "faint" at seeing his tribulations and sufferings for sharing the gospel "for us." It was his joy, and God's awesome purpose that this all-powerful gospel should be shared with every soul no matter what the hardship or hazard. This is God's good news and it cannot and shall not be stopped! "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it"—they will be broken down! (Matthew 16:18).

### 3. Experiencing the love of Christ which "passes all knowledge" (v.14-21)

- a. (v.14-16) All the family "in heaven and earth" is named by God the Father—we are to be under his name for He is our heavenly parent; we are to serve and to worship Him!! **Paul prayed that the believers would be "strengthened with might by His Spirit** in the inner man." *It is the Spirit of God who will give us strength through Christ. Without Him we can do nothing* (John 15:4,5; Philippians 4:13). We must have Christ and His strength daily so that we shall not be overcome. Let this be our daily prayer and effort. Remain in, and close to God always by prayer, Bible reading/study, and sharing of the love of Jesus with others.
- b. (v.17-19) **We must have true faith, "being rooted and grounded by love."** Love must be the foundation of our relationship and walk with God (not merely fear or some other thing). LOVE is what we need. "God is love" (1 John 4:8), if we "love" Christ, then we'll keep His commandments (John 14:15,21). The Greatest commandments are, number 1, "LOVE the Lord your God...", and number two, "LOVE your neighbor as yourself..." (Matthew 22:37-40). **We are to "know the depth..." of Christ's awesome love for us!!** And to have such in reciprocation to God. "All the saints..." need to experience this! We are to **"know the love of Christ, which passes all knowledge..."** (it is almost incomprehensible). Men have hardly grasped the concept of such amazing love!! But we must begin to experience it so that we may be "filled with all the fullness of God." The Holy Spirit labors to shed this love "abroad in our hearts" (Romans 5:5). God desires that our hearts would be awakened to truly taste, know, experience, and to share this awesome and holy love of God; selfless, self-sacrificing love of God (Romans 5:8).
- c. (v.20,21) **God can do far ABOVE ALL THINGS that we think or ask.** His power working in us to transform our hearts and minds into His blessed and holy image is nearly incomprehensible—and yet, it is there! He can and does do far more than we could ever imagine for the salvation of our souls. **May all glory be given to Him throughout all eternity** by those who've tasted of His goodness! May the church of our Lord give glory unto Him always!!

### Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your prayerful desire to daily taste of the goodness of God's transforming love? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you gladly share that amazing love of God with others? \_\_\_\_\_