

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
WAYNE BARRETT
HILLTOP LAKES CHAPEL
JULY 14, 2021

Studies in Ephesians
Ephesians 3:8-19

⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

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.

—Ephesians 3:8-19

v 8 – “To me...”

Paul’s humility—although he had great authority, he knew it was by God’s grace
“to preach to the Gentiles”—something that, perhaps, it was hard for him, at first, to accept
“the unsearchable riches of Christ”—this should be the theme of our teaching and preaching as well

v 9 – “and to bring to light for everyone...”

God plan for the world’s salvation was *revealed* in Christ and the cross—including in the heavenly places!

His plan is not “find a good religion” or “lead a decent life”...

“mystery” – could only be known by revelation

God—“who created all things”—a reminder of God’s being and his authority; there can be no questioning of His plan

v 10 – “so that through the church...”

This is an amazing statement

Through the formation of the *Church*—a spiritual entity, a living temple of the Spirit of God, comprised of those who are forgiven and saved by the work of Christ: his life, death, and resurrection.

The devil and those spirits under his authority did not know what God’s plan was.

⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.—1 Corinthians 2:7-8

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.—Colossians 2:13-15

v 11 – “this was according to the eternal purpose...”

God always knew.

His plans and purposes are eternal.

They are realized in “Christ Jesus our Lord,” and no other way.

v 12 – “In whom we have boldness and access”

And may we know that we do!

Christ has won this for us through the love of God.

Our boldness, access, and confidence are all “through faith in Him.”

v 13 – “So I ask you not to lose heart...”

Paul’s letters are all written from the position of ongoing suffering of all sorts

He did not lose heart and did not want others to do so

Paul knew what was just ahead!

vv 14-19—Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians:

It is all about the believer’s experience of Christ!

That “he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being”

Power for Christian living—and it comes from the Holy Spirit

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”

We abide in Christ through faith with the ability provided by the Spirit

We are sanctified through our faith in Christ

“that you, being rooted and grounded in love”

God’s love—the theme of Christ and of the New Testament. There is no greater theme,
no higher aspiration, no greater achievement in living

“may have strength to comprehend...”

...the love of Christ

and to *know* the love of Christ—which is surpassing knowledge!

Christ’s love surpasses—far surpasses—what can be put into word or song

“that you may be *filled with all the fullness*”—another very Pauline expression, seeking to convey what is beyond language: “filled with all the fullness of God!”