

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH REVEALED PART 2  
EPHESIANS 3:7-21

WE ARE IN CHAPTER 3 OF THE EPHESIANS EPISTLE WRITTEN BY PAUL THE APOSTLE IN AD 60. PAUL HAS BEEN INCARCERATED FOR 5 YEARS AT THE TIME OF THIS LETTER. HE IS CHAINED TO A ROMAN GUARD ON HOUSE ARREST IN ROME. OUTSIDE LOOKING IN, ONE WOULD THINK THIS WAS A BLEEK SITUATION FOR PAUL. BUT, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT IN WHICH HE WORKS ALL THINGS FOR GOOD, PAUL GIVES US THE THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH WITH EXCITEMENT AND PASSION. PAUL KNEW HIS PURPOSE, HE WAS A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST, NOT ROME. PAUL SHOWS US THAT OBEDIENCE TO GOD IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, PROSPERS. IT IS MORE THAN JUST THE INDIVIDUAL PROSPERING IN FAITH AND THE SPIRITUAL THINGS OF GOD, BUT HOW MUCH IT EFFECTS OTHERS WHO ARE TOUCHED BY THE FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. GOD IS WORKING IN AND THROUGH OUR CIRCUMTANCES BECAUSE WE ARE HIS BELOVED. WE GENTILES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR TO GOD BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST AND NOW THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE WHO CALL CHRIST LORD. ALL WHO HAVE FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS SHALL BE SAVED. FAITH THAT CHRIST DIED IN THE SINNER'S PLACE, THAT HE TOOK THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN BY BEING A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SINNER, BUT BECAUSE NO SIN WAS FOUND IN HIM, HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD, CONQUERING SIN, DEATH AND HELL WHILE REDEEMING HIS CHURCH. FAITH THAT HE IS ALIVE AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. SALVATION IS BY GRACE

THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST. WE ARE IN CHRIST AND WE ARE FREE. IN VERSE 1 OF CHAPTER 3 PAUL IS ABOUT TO PRAY, BUT BEFORE HE PRAYS, HE GOES OVER THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH ONE MORE TIME IN VERSES 2-13 ( A PARENTHESIS ). WE WILL PICK IT UP TODAY IN VERSE 7 OF THE PARENTHESIS

Ephesians 3:7-9 NIV

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

PAUL CALLS HIMSELF A SERVANT, THAT IS THE HIGHEST POSTION WE CAN ACHIEVE IN GOD'S FAMILY, HE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT IT IS GOD'S GRACE AND POWER WORKING IN AND THROUGH HIM. PAUL IS HUMBLE, YET HE KNOWS HIS ASSIGNMENT, TO PREACH TO THE GENTILE CHURCH THE BOUNDLESS RICHES OF CHRIST AND THE MYSTERY THAT THE SINNER CAN BE A SAINT WITHOUT BEING A JEW FIRST.

TO MAKE PLAIN/PHOTIZO/ENLIGHTEN, ILLUMINATE

IT WAS HIDDEN UNTIL THE CHURCH WAS BORN AT PENTECOST THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS PULLED THE LID OFF OF GOD'S TREASURE CHEST AS THE LORD ILLUMINATED AND ENLIGHTENED THEM

Ephesians 3:10-11 NIV

<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE CHURCH DOES NOT EXIST SIMPLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAVING SOULS, THOUGH THAT IS A MARVELOUS AND IMPORTANT WORK. THE SUPREME PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS TO GLORIFY GOD BY MANIFESTING HIS MANY FOLDS OF WISDOM BEFORE THE ANGELS, WHO THEN CAN OFFER GREATER PRAISE TO GOD...THE DEMONIC IS MOCKED

THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE IS TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD, AND THAT WILL BE ITS ULTIMATE REALITY AFTER ALL EVIL IS CONQUERED AND DESTROYED WHEN JESUS RETURNS

THE REAL DRAMA OF REDEMPTION CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD WHEN WE REALIZE THAT THE GLORY OF GOD IS THE SUPREME GOAL OF CREATION

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

LIVE YOUR LIFE TO GLORIFY GOD AND YOU WILL ACHIEVE YOUR PURPOSE

Ephesians 3:12-13 NIV

<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

WE MAY BOLDLY APPROACH GOD BECAUSE WE ARE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 10:19-22 NIV

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

THIS IS THE REVELATION WE SEEM TO FORGET WHEN WE STRUGGLE.... RUN TO THE THRONE AND CRY OUT TO GOD

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE AND CORRECT HIS CHILDREN TO SANCTIFY AND RESTORE THEM

NOW PAUL BEGINS TO PRAY:

Ephesians 3:14-21 NIV

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

PRAY THIS PRAYER / LETS BREAK THIS DOWN

Ephesians 3:14-16 NIV

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

FAMILY/PATRIA/FAMILY LINE, CLAN, PEOPLE, NATION  
PAUL IS STRATEGICALLY PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH AND HE  
STARTS WITH POWER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GLORIOUS RICHES ARE EVERYTHING FOUND IN CHRIST; HIS WORD, FORGIVENESS OF SIN, REDEMPTION FROM DEATH, DARKNESS, SIN, AND SELF, RESSURECTION AND NEW LIFE, AUTHORITY OVER THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS OF DARKNESS, AUTHORITY OVER YOUR THOUGHT LIFE, SUPERNATURAL PEACE, LOVE, UNDERSTANDING, PERSEVERENCE, AND HOLINESS.... THIS IS OUR INHERITENCE OUT OF HIS GLORIOUS RICHES

WHY IS PAUL PRAYING THIS FOR THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 3:17 NIV

<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

THE STRENGTH COMES FROM THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN WE FEED OUR SPIRIT THE WORD OF GOD. OUR MIND IS RENEWED AND FOCUSSED ON CHRIST; OUR HEART IS FULL OF CHRIST (WHICH IS TRUTH)

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ESTABLISHED/THEMELIOO/FOUNDATION, STEADFAST

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

THIS PRAYER IS A HEART CHECK CHURCH, WHERE DO YOU FAIL MOST ON THIS LIST OF LOVE? WHERE ARE YOU STRONG? MAKE IT A POINT TO REPENT, SEEK GOD, AND MAKE CHANGES CELEBRATE AND CULTIVATE THE LOVE YOU ARE STRONG IN

Ephesians 3:17-19 NIV

<sup>17</sup> And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT UNITY AND EXPERIENCE  
WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY SHARING AND RECEIVING THE LOVE OF CHRIST...THROUGH TESTIMONIES, TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS, AND VICTORIES OF LIFE WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH CHRIST

WE CAN KNOW HIS LOVE THROUGH OUR EXPERIENCE WITH HIM  
MAY WE ALL BE FILLED TO THE MARK WITH THE FULLNESS OF GOD AND KNOW, REALLY KNOW HIS LOVE

Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

