

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 29TH - 30TH, 2022 // BOOK OF EPHESIANS

### MYSTERY (EPHESIANS 3:1-7) FOR THIS REASON

In chapter 2, Paul shared that Christ came and proclaimed the "good news of peace" to the Jews and Gentiles.

- Because of Christ, they would both have access to the Father and be "fellow citizens" in God's household. This inspired Paul to pray.

### BUT BEFORE I PRAY...

Paul interrupts his own prayer to share why he is so encouraged to pray for them. Christ had directly given Paul a purpose, a message to deliver, and a specific people to hear it.

- Paul proclaims that followers of Christ are co-heirs and members of God's family. **This is the relationship we all need.**

### PURPOSE (EPHESIANS 3:8-13) THE LEAST OF ALL THE SAINTS

We may wonder why Paul would call himself the least. Paul had quite the Jewish pedigree, and since his conversion, he was possibly the most effective and known Christian.

- **Understanding the deep truths of God's Word doesn't make us proud, it makes us humble.**

### TO BE MADE KNOWN

Paul knew his purpose: to make Christ known. God had clearly given him a direct message to "shed light" for all.

- Verse 10 says that God's wisdom will be made known through the Church, and even angles will learn about God's plan as we follow Christ.

### GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

God has always known His plan: Christ would be the Savior; Paul would tell the Gentiles; the Church would tell the world.

- **Knowing God is the one who has brought us to this place and time, we should pray with boldness and confidence, even when suffering is all around us.**

### PRAYER (EPHESIANS 3:14-19) KNEEL BEFORE THE FATHER

Kneeling isn't the only way to pray but remembering Who you're praying to does matter.

- Everything in the universe exists because God created it, including you and me. **His love for us, in light of His power, should humble us as He invites us into a conversation with Him.**

### SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Paul prays for them to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit. **This comes through prayer because God is the one that gives this power.**

- **Too many try to "work something up" when this power only comes down from God "according to His riches."**

### DEEP FAITH

Paul was talking to Christians, so this wasn't saving faith; this is the deep faith required to live every day for Christ.

- **Where do you draw your stability? In order for there to be power in the Christian life, there must be depth. Without depth, we will fall when the storms of life come.**

### KNOW LOVE THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE

Length, width, height, and depth are not a single place, they are all the rooms of our lives.

- **Being loved by God gives us our identity and the ability to relate to others. Knowing God's love is not an individual accomplishment but involves the whole Church.**

### FULLNESS

Spiritual strength leads to deep faith, which leads to knowing the divine love of God, which leads to fullness.

- **That fullness is to be satisfied with God. So, why aren't we satisfied? Because it is only when His presence, His power, His love, and His life inhabit us that we are fully satisfied.**

### PRAISE (EPHESIANS 3:20-21) WHAT WE SHOULD ALL KNOW...

Paul says that "God is able," and that's where most of the Church stops. Paul continues to say that God is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think.

- **How many times have we just stopped when we should have realized that God is the one working in us? It's His power, not ours.**

### TO HIM BE GLORY...

Why does God share His power with us? So **WE** can build great churches? So **WE** can boast about our accomplishments? **NO!**

- **We are here to glorify the Son of God and build His Church, which can only be done in His power. The power of God in our lives isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.**

### RELATIONSHIP

- As followers of Christ, we have been adopted into the family of God.
- **In Christ, we are co-heirs and have access to our Heavenly Father through prayer.**
- **God is not like any earthly father; He is the creator of all fathers, and He is good.**

### HUMILITY

- As our relationship with God and His Church grows, we become stronger in our faith and understanding of His plan.
- **This is where we find spiritual strength, deep faith, divine love, and fullness.**
- **There is no room for pride, only His power.**

### GLORY

- God is the only one who has the power to satisfy our desire for Him.
- **As He changes us, He will also use us for His glory to all generations, forever and ever.**
- **Are we living like we are aware of God's plan for our lives? Can anyone even see it? If not, then who is getting the glory for your life?**