

PART 7 – EPHESIANS 3:1-7

FOUNDATIONAL TEXT

John 1:16-17 AMP - *For out of His fullness (abundance) we have **all received** [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, **grace** (unearned, undeserved favour and spiritual blessing) and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.*

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 3 tell us?
2. Interpretation – The word of God
3. Application - How do apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 3?
4. Key Messages from this preaching

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 3 tell us?

KEY VERSE “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

Ephesians 1:3 NKJV

- True unity can only be found under the headship of Christ – where Jesus is recognised, worshipped as Lord – true unity in the Spirit can happen and His power can manifest.
- There cannot be true unity on earth unless there is submission to Christ

Ephesians 3 - Overview

[a.]	The Prisoner – what are you focusing on?	Verse 1
[b.]	The Mystery	Verse 3 & 6
[c.]	The Gospel	Verse 7

2. Interpretation – The word of God

Verses 1-7	Ephesians 3 NKJV
	<p><i>For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, through the gospel. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace, given me through the working of His power.</i></p>

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Verse 1	<i>For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles -</i>
<p>[a.] The Prisoner – what are you focusing on?</p> <p>Paul called himself a prisoner of the Lord. Paul is in jail by his own voluntary act. He could have been released, but he said ‘no’ I want to go to Caesar because I want to preach the gospel to the most powerful person on the planet - his name is Caesar, so lock me up, do whatever you want to do, I’m going to Caesar. That was Paul’s heart. He wasn’t running away from problems, and disagreements in society.</p> <p>He saw himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ [not Rome]. He only throws it out there in passing [that’s he’s in prison]. Why? Because being in prison is not what he was focusing on. He was focusing on the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and no prison could keep Paul down.</p> <p>The story of Jairus after his daughter had died</p> <p>Mark 5:35-36 - <i>While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” As soon as Jesus heard (He ignored) the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid (any longer); only believe (in Me & My power).” [portions from the amplified]</i></p> <p>Jairus comes to Jesus and say’s ‘please come and pray for my daughter because she’s about to die’. Jesus actually doesn’t say a word, he just follows Jairus; now on his way, there is a lady with an issue of blood and she rudely interrupted Jesus to the point where after she got her miracle and Jesus ministered to as they continue journey to Jairus’s house, people come and say to Jairus, ‘don’t bother the teacher anymore because your daughters not sick anymore, she’s dead, she stopped breathing. If I was Jairus, I would have been so annoyed at the lady, interrupting Jesus coming to my house, I would have blamed her for my daughter dying. [of course – point #1 is ‘don’t blame anyone].</p> <p>Jesus didn’t commission Jairus to go to the house himself, he walked with him to the darkest most painful place, and ministers to him.</p>	
Verse 3 & 6	<i>3.How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery [as I have briefly written already..] 6. that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,</i>
<p>[b.] The Mystery</p> <p>Paul is saying, I’ve been given revelation of this mystery that in past times has been hidden, but now God has revealed it to me. He says if you go back and read what I’ve mentioned [Ephesians 1 & 2] you’ll get insight into my understanding of what this mystery is and will continue to be this - that God only has ONE BODY, Jesus only has ONE BODY, so both Jew and Gentile are part of the same body - believers in Christ.</p> <p>Jews and Gentiles are not supposed to mix, they’re like oil and water to the point where a Jew couldn’t eat with a Gentile, such was the separation God had in the Old Testament for a time, for a purpose, but Paul says now, there’s stewardship for this grace that’s been given to me for this dispensation.</p> <p>Paul was an expert in all the things relating to Israel and Jewish customs, and he’s even shocked when he’s writing this down, that the Jew and Gentiles as believers, no longer separated. We’re one and it goes beyond just Jewish and Gentile barriers - all ethnic, racial, socio-economic, prejudices and barriers we have in Christ. They ought not be there because we are one in him.</p>	

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Verse 7	..of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God, given to me by the effective working of His power.
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[c.] The Gospel

Paul says I'm a servant to the gospel. Even in Jail, Paul's heart was still 'a servant to this gospel' because this gospel needs to go out.

Example:

Watch, ring, phone and keys.

Are we seeking first the Kingdom in all those areas?

TIME [Watch]: Being a servant of the gospel means that your time is invested in gospel things. Paul's says we need to redeem the time not waste the time. How do I know you are a servant of Jesus? **Well, your time is used for the Gospel.**

RELATIONSHIPS [Ring]: How do you know you are a servant of the gospel? **Are you allowing God to use you in your relationship to build a bridge for the gospel? -**

Getting busy with activities and meetings [I love those things], but they are not preaching the gospel - somewhere along the line I need to invite my neighbour who doesn't know Jesus, I need to be able to share the gospel with him. This is what Paul is talking about, he's a servant of the gospel, even in jail his heart was still about serving and gospel.

TOOLS – HEARTS AFFECTION [Phone]: – Are you using what God put in your hand to serve the gospel? **What are you good at? Use it for his glory.** What do you enjoy doing? Use it for his glory? Allow God to use you to serve the gospel.

POSSESSIONS & RESOURCES [Keys]: Finance - every week God tests your heart, when your pay cheque comes in. We need finances to preach the gospel [I wish we didn't] but we need it; but we don't give out of need, we give out of revelation. We say, 'God I'm already blessed, and I'm going to bring what you've blessed me with and offer it to you', so the gospel can continue to be preached every week.

When you are a believer, your whole affection changes from self - to God. I realised that God, I owe you my whole life and everything I have is yours. I'm already blessed, I receive the good news, I want to sow in to make sure other people can hear the good news.

Generosity is all over the bible.

E.g. - Honour the Lord with your wealth and the first fruits of your increase Proverbs 3:9 NIV - not law, it's got nothing to do with Old Covenant, it's 'God, I honour you by giving you my best, the first fruits, the best part, not the scrappy leftovers'.

Again, I get that times are tough but even in famine, Isaac sowed and reaped a hundredfold harvest. In famine. Why? because he honoured God. Ask God what do you want me to give to lighthouse church?

If you look at the book of Acts, they sold land, not land where they were living, excess land like investors sold land and bought all the proceeds and laid it not just the first fruits or the tithe, the whole amount and laid it at the apostles feet. No strings attached, no – 'you've got to do this project', no 'you've got to be this church', no 'you've got to put my name on a placard' and 'make sure I'm honoured'. They laid it at the apostles feet and said – 'you guys choose where this goes for the gospel'.

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4. Overarching Messages from this preaching	
God wants us to focus our attention from our physical needs to our spiritual needs	The 'real you', is not the person you look at in the mirror every morning. The 'real you', is your spirit inside you, which is made in God's image that's one day is going to be taken up into Glory or glorified on the earth.
The safest place for us to be is in the word.	Hunger in God's word and then dig your own wells in God and allow Him to speak and feed and encourage and nourish you. You need to take your own initiative and feed yourself.
Strengthen yourself in the Lord <i>[as David did 1 Samuel 30:1-9]</i>	<p>1 Samuel 30 - about the worst day of David's life , before he was King, the Philistines came and took away all his possessions, his wives, his children, everything he had to then point where even his own men that trusted him and looked up to his as a leader, they started talking of stoning him and killing him because they lost everything in one day. David strengthened himself in the Lord and he got to a place where he could reconcile, he could tuck away the things that happened [in Ziglag].</p> <p>Say 'Lord, help me take my eyes off my circumstances and remind me again of your greatness, remind me again of your awesomeness. Help me shrink these things that I'm facing to the correct proportion to you, not to me. To you these things are nothing, to me they are GIANTS. To me they are overwhelming, but to you Lord, not one is going to stand before you'.</p>
When Christ came, he silenced sin, he silenced the grave because even death and the grave are no match for our King	We sang this morning, what Jesus did on the cross, is he defeated sin and the grave. In other words, they were boasting because every person was born in sin and born eternally dead and they won every battle of every person, ever born, until Christ came and silenced them.
Live your life in such a way that reflects the glory of God	You have a calling from God; doesn't matter what you do and where you are, you're called to be a son or daughter of the Most High King. Kerrie shared in Ephesians 4, to walk worthy of the call you have received. Paul is not talking about pastors and preachers and apostle's; he's talking about everyday Christians like you and me to walk worthy of what Jesus purchased for you on the cross. There is false gospel [one is that it doesn't matter how you live, it doesn't matter what you do, it's all covered by grace] yes, we are saved by grace and grace alone - not our works . None of us can boast that we earn salvation, but how we live matters [not in terms of salvation] in terms of Glory to God.

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<p>Is your life a reflection of what it means to be a follower of Jesus?</p>	<p>Paul labours this point in the whole book of Ephesians, he starts off and we know in Ephesians 1 & 2 - who Jesus is and what he has done, who the father is , what he has done, who the spirit is and what he has done and out of that place, what we have access to [this incredible inheritance in Christ] how blessed and rich we are in Christ regardless of your bank account. If you're a believer, you are incredibly rich because your riches are stored up in heaven for you, not on this earth, where rust and moth come in and spoil.</p>
<p>If the gospel's not changing you, then it isn't the gospel</p>	<p>The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. and it changes and transforms us. Why, because we're already accepted in the beloved. God doesn't love me less because I've got some stuff in my life that needs to be worked out. I'm accepted in the beloved and in that place of acceptance, I begin to work out my salvation with fear and trembling because our God is a consuming fire.</p>
<p>Preach the gospel and if required, use words</p>	<p>The gospel is being preached in the way you live. What kind of gospel are people hearing? Is it the gospel according to whatever your name is or is it the gospel according to King Jesus?</p>
<p>Disunity comes from preference</p>	<p>It's not a scriptural disagreement, [sometimes] in the west, it's our preference. We are experts at voicing our preferences. We want things to be the way we want things. That's cool if you're alone in your room, you have the right to control your room, right? But we're in a corporate gathering and when we're trying to do life together, <i>it's not about your preferences.</i></p>
<p>God made us all different and that's for His Glory</p>	<p>Stop trying to make people like ourselves, it's not a 'one size fits all'. It's that we've been created for His glory. The way you talk the way you preach, the way you minister, the way you love, the way you communicate - God's made you for a reason, for a purpose, to reflect his Glory. <i>Stop apologising for yourself or stop waiting for people to accept you and like you.</i> God loves you and He likes you and He accepts you and He wants you to shine for His glory.</p>
<p>Focus your heart, your gaze, your spirit on Jesus, because he's here to walk through these dark places with you</p>	<p>Whatever you are facing; disease, debt, depression, disaster - Jesus's word to you is not be afraid any longer, only believe. In other words, fix your eyes and your priorities, not on those circumstances any longer, don't give them unrightful attention, don't give them permission to torment you and minister fear to you.</p>
<p>Don't allow your circumstances to minister fear to you.</p>	<p>That is the delicate balance of Christianity - we hear what people say about our faith and sometimes we choose to ignore it. <i>Sometimes ignorance is pure bliss.</i> Jesus says [paraphrasing] don't focus on what's going on now, don't focus on that. Do not fear or be afraid any longer - <i>only BELIEVE.</i></p>

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<p>Sometimes we can become unbelieving professional believers</p>	<p>Some of us go through seasons and we're <i>unbelieving believers</i>, we're believers by name but we dare not to step out in faith and walk in faith and believe and trust God for miracles to happen.</p> <p>We can talk the talk, but when the rubber hits the road, we lose it and we crumble, and we smash, and we burn out.</p>
<p>We don't live in denial - faith means we face the facts</p>	<p>What you focus on is what you magnify, what you magnify is what you're going to get in life. So when we say we've got this problem and I've got this and this things against me, but Lord, I choose out of my worship to you, not to focus on these things I lift my gaze heavenward, I'm taking this turn for glory, whatever comes my way, I'm looking at you, you're going to bring me safely home, give it some gas!</p>
<p>Setbacks are sent so you can step up and walk in success</p>	<p>Walk in God's success; nothing you face hasn't gone through the father's filter for you. The father's so kind, he won't let you face something that you can't handle, or he would be a cruel, terrible God.</p>
<p>Stop focusing on what cannot help you</p>	<p>Let's take it to God and allow him to change our vista and our focus.</p>
<p>We want revival, right? that's revival. 'Lord, whatever it takes, we're all in'.</p>	<p>I know we've got to live somewhere we've got to drive somewhere, and we've got to have some money for the future, but we can ask God - what is it that I can bring to you as a servant of the Gospel? - with no guilt or condemnation, it's the grace of giving - we're all happy because we're giving and we're doing what God want us to do, not what we put pressure on the other people to do</p>