

PART 8 – EPHESIANS 3:8-21

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 VERSES:

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:”

John 1:12 NKJV

- In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and understanding
- In Christ is found the hope of the Glory of God
- In Christ all things are being held together and find their true meaning and purpose

Ephesians 3 Recap

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

Ephesians 1: The prayer for **enlightenment**

Ephesians 3: The prayer for **empowerment** [strengthen us in our inner man]

We need both - enlightenment and empowerment we need to see Jesus and walk in the power that he releases in our lives.

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2. Interpretation – The word of God

Verses 8-21	Ephesians 3 NKJV
<p><i>To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. Therefore, I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.</i></p>	
Verses 8-9	<p><i>To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ</i></p>
<p>[d.] The ‘Unsearchable Riches of Christ’ [see extended notes]</p> <p>Paul tried to figure out the greatness of God’s grace and started tracking it out as one might track out the shore of a lake. He soon discovered that it wasn’t a lake at all, but an ocean, an immeasurable sea. God’s riches are unsearchable; we will never know them completely.</p> <p>Spurgeon - <i>“I am bold to tell you that my Masters’ riches of grace are so unsearchable, that he delights to forgive and forget enormous sin; the bigger the sin the more glory to his grace. If you are overhead and ears in debt, he is rich enough to discharge your liabilities. If you are at the very gates of hell, he is able to pluck you from the jaws of destruction.”</i></p> <p>Matthew 16:13-15 – <i>When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”</i></p> <p>Galatians 3: 1 <i>O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?</i></p> <p>I believe in these last days there is a bewitching spirit, that’s been sent on assignment to bewitch the church, because it’s not bewitching unbelievers, they’re already dead, they’re already in deception. it’s bewitching the church.</p>	

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Bewitch [means in the Greek – Fascinate by false representation] – the church has been fascinated by false representations of Christ. The church has been captured and bewitched by a Jesus that doesn't exist in the bible. We make our own version of Jesus - he's our mate, he 'hooks us up', he's my 'best friend' etc. He's all those things but let me tell you, **He is the King of Kings and I'm here for him, he's not here for me.**

James 1:16-17 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

So the church is under attack. We're not scared, we're not fearful, we're just open and we have ears to hear what he's saying. We're alert and we don't want to fall into deception or bewitching, we don't want to be fascinated by anything that's not Christ and we never want to be seduced into following the wrong path that's going to lead us astray. We want to fix our eyes on Jesus, **that's why Paul makes this boast, that he wants to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone, who Jesus is and what he's done and He's coming back very soon.**

Book of Mark Chapter 6 - CASE STUDY

Verses 1-6	<i>Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.</i>
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Jesus was amazed [not in a good way, in a bad way] at their lack of faith. His power was limited, not because of himself, because of how people recognised him.

Verses 53-56	<i>When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever He went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.</i>
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What a contrast. What a difference in the power of God moving [how many prefer the second story? We don't want to identify with the first story] but let me tell you, a lot of the church identifies with the first story because we fail to recognise who Jesus is and what he's done.

Notice the second story - they recognise Jesus and it's not that they recognised him according the flesh, they recognised the power of God on his life, the anointing, what he said he was going to do. They recognised him and it did something in their heart and their faith and they reached out and ran towards him. **Let me tell you, faith if it doesn't prompt you to action, it's not really faith.** We have too many unbelieving believers in the church, our job is to help people see that Jesus is here today and hasn't lost any of his power.

Verses 10 -21	<i>Ephesians 3 NKJV [see extended notes]</i>
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3. Application - How do we apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 3?

What is God saying to you out of the book of Ephesians Chapter 1 on Authority

- **ACTION: Recall - when was the last time God 'Wowed' you?** - not by necessarily what He did, but what you saw of him, What you saw in him?.
- **ACTION: We have *one* job – to point people to Jesus.** Even to principalities and powers and demonic strongholds and opposition out there, our job isn't to fight them head on, our job is to preach Christ, to worship Christ, to believe in Christ, to follow Christ, to pray in the armour of Christ and let him fight on our behalf.
- **ACTION:** Pray this – Lord teach me your ways, how do I husband my wife, how do I father my children, how do I walk into all that you have for me, how can I be a light in my community? Lord show me, I don't know what to do? **HUMILITY – it's only what you learn after you think you know it all, that really counts.**
- **ACTION:** Be open to what God is doing; allow him to stretch you, allow him to speak into your life. Some of us just love going for walks and talking to Jesus [*that's great but that's not going to mature you*] some of us like just putting on worship music and we just worship all day [*again that's great but that's not going to mature you*] some of us - we get in the word all the time but we're never actually obeying the word [*that's not going to mature you*] some of us we are in the word, we obey the word but we never speak the word [*that's not going to mature you either*].

5 Quick ways to boost your faith IN JESUS through the Word:

- **Listen to God's Word** – So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:17*
- **Believe God's Word** – For we have heard the good news of deliverance just as they did, yet they didn't join their faith with the Word. Instead, what they heard didn't affect them deeply, for they doubted. *Hebrews 4:2*
- **Obey God's Word** – For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works (corresponding actions) is dead also. *James 2:26*
- **Speak God's Word** – And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believe & therefore I spoke', we also believe & therefore speak. *2 Corinthians 3:1*
- **Share God's Word** – When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. *Romans 1:12*

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4. Overarching Messages from this preaching	
The modern church is plagued with Jesus is your 'need meter'	The scriptures don't stop at Jesus being your need meter, it's a comma - Jesus is the king of Kings and the Lord of Lords. If we're always preaching the gospel 'come to Jesus, He will meet your needs', when he doesn't meet your needs, you get disappointed with Jesus and we wonder why people are leaving the church. Rather, we should be saying – 'this is who Jesus is, come and meet Jesus come and know Jesus, this is the Jesus of the bible'.
Come to him because you want to get to know him because his riches are unsearchable	Allow him to woo you and draw you and reveal himself to you, not to just fix your life.
When I see Jesus in all his glory, I'm empowered to let go of my sin	There are people here today, that are trying to break the jaws of sin through your own strength, and I found in my life, it's not my willpower that released me from sin.
We will never stop MAKING IT ALL ABOUT CHRIST- because:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That is our mandate and 2. Christ can never be exhausted, nor can we plumb the depths of how great, awesome/glorious our King is.
Jesus promises to satisfy those who hunger for him	Some have been around 10, 20, 30 years and we can quote scriptures. We need to grow and push in to Jesus, and say 'Lord show me your ways'? and then hunger for him.
Someone asked Spurgeon what's more important in the church - the 'word' or the 'spirit'?	He said; 'let me ask you this - what's more important, breathing in, or breathing out?'
Be careful with the weight we use or the weight we put on stuff we hear in the media, <i>it's not all true.</i>	I believe in these last days, in our city, in the media, in our workplaces, our politicians, all those who have any influence; whether they know or not, they've been swept into a great deception that's hitting the planet and the church isn't immune. It's not because you hear something and you keep hearing it, th.at it's the true, we need to go to the scriptures.
Our Job is to keep focused on Jesus and stay the course	We say 'Lord, come and do what you've promised, Lord show us new things, break our walls, Lord break our barriers, whatever is stopping us, your will be done'.

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<p>Our job here is not to address every wrong doctrine and every wrong thought and bring down politicians and hit stuff; our job is to keep preaching the truth and allow truth to protect you.</p>	<p>We never want to water down the truth to make it easier to swallow. Sometimes the truth is hard to swallow, but once you've swallowed it, it's going to produce good fruit. Let's watch what our priorities are, let's watch what we're passionate about, let's watch what fights we get drawn into because every fight and every passion of our heart if it's not focused on Christ, will lead us astray and it's not a 'social gospel', and not an 'anti-woke gospel,' and we're not a 'prosperity gospel' and we're not a 'feel good gospel', we are a 'Kingdom of God gospel'.</p>
<p>Hebrews 13:8 Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.</p>	<p>We have no problem with yesterday's Jesus. Jesus who was born in a manger, Jesus who died on the cross, Jesus who was resurrected, Jesus who ascended on high. How many of you believe that story? TRUTH. We have no problem with tomorrow's Jesus. Jesus is coming back soon, very soon, on a horse; the cloud of witnesses is going to end the Armageddon War, every eye that sees Him will bow before Him, He's going to establish the new heaven, New Jerusalem.</p> <p>Our problem is today's Jesus - we think that today's Jesus is different to tomorrow's Jesus, let me tell you - Today's Jesus hasn't lost any power; He's still saving, He's still healing, He's still delivering, He's still providing for your needs. Our problem, we don't recognise it, we wait to feel something, we wait to see something, we wait for circumstances to change.</p> <p>Circumstances have to change according to our faith, not because we see the change first.</p> <p>Whatever it is you're believing for this season - go to Jesus, go to His word; ask Him to show you what it is that He wants you to do, to believe, to say, to sow, to give, to pray. Recognise and run to him. Jesus hasn't lost his power even today.</p>