

Truth In Scripture

Pastor Rick Kabrick

Commentary on The Book of Ephesians.

CH 3

**ROM 8:28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose**

**/ROM 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.**

**conformed to the image of his Son,**

There is a story that Cindy Murphy thanks you Cindy.

A womens Bible study, they were on the book of Malachi. They came across Vs 3: **“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver”...**

They wondered about the meaning. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver.

So, she went to a local silversmith to learn about the process. Well, she watched the silversmith as he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up.



He explained that in refining silver, you have to hold the silver over the hottest

part of the flame to burn away all the impurities.

The silversmith explained that he had to keep his utmost focus on the silver the entire time it was in the fire so as not to destroy it.

The woman asked the silversmith, how do you know when the silver is fully refined, when it is finished? He smiled at her and answered,

"Oh, that's easy—when I can see my image in it.

**/ROM 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.**

In CH 2 we saw Paul making the statement: **Christ made us alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.** We once walked according to the prince of the power of the air, but now as believers we have been raised up to sit in the Heavenly places in Christ.

/We have been saved by faith, the gift of GOD, and not works, so that no one can boast. We are GOD's workmanship poiēma, more than a poem...we are HIS masterpiece. You are a masterpiece.

Paul also talked about Yeshua Who reconciled Jew and Gentile, now fellow citizens in the household of GOD. The Apostles and prophets are the foundations, and Christ is the cornerstone.

Now in CH 3

Paul reminds us that he is a prisoner of Christ Jesus. And Paul was actually in prison at the time in Rome.

Paul preaches the hidden mystery of GOD. Paul's role in revealing this mystery is part of GOD's eternal purpose.

Paul will tell the Ephesians that from Christ, we become part of a family not only here on earth but in Heaven and for all eternity.

Paul prays that Christ may be known to the Ephesians, and dwell (live permanently) in their hearts, in their thinking. GOD is above all we do or think. And Paul will finish this section

of the letter with: **To HIM be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations.**

**2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,**

**20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,**

**22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**

Right into CH 3.

**For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles**

**2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;**

**3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.**

**4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,**

**5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**

**6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**

**7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.**

**8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,**

**9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;**



**10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.**

**11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,**

**12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.**

**13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.**

**14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,**

**15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,**

**16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

**17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

**18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**

**19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.**

**20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we**

**ask or think, according to the power that works within us,**

**21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.**

Let's take a look:

**/3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake [hyper = on behalf of] of you Gentiles**

**2 if [eye = if and you do that they heard of the stewardship of GOD's grace given to Paul. Paul knew his particular calling to the Gentile world was well known among Gentile Christians.] indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;**

## **I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles:**

/During this Roman imprisonment, Paul was under house arrest. In the day he was free to move around the house with the supervision of soldiers, but every night he would have been chained to at least one soldier perhaps 2 just to make sure he did not escape before his trial before Caesar.

It is interesting that Paul despite being in a Roman Prison situation, considered himself to be a prisoner of Christ. If he was a prisoner, which he was, he considered himself a prisoner of Christ.

The entire reason he was under arrest and awaiting trial was because of his missionary efforts on behalf of the

Gentiles. Despite that, the last thing Paul wanted was for people to feel sorry for him because he was imprisoned.

He wanted his audience to realize that it was a benefit for them that he was a prisoner.

**2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;**

**3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.**

Paul had already referred, in shorter terms, to the mystery revealed to him in the first 2 Chapters.

GOD had to show Paul that Jews and Gentiles were equal partners in the

Church. The Church was perfectly, beautifully designed for that by GOD the architect, the HS was the builder with Yeshua as the cornerstone.

/Paul will mention mystery three other times in this chapter (Ephesians more time in this chapter making that a theme of the Chapter.

This mystery was made known by revelation (EPH 3:3), came from Christ (3:4), involved Jews and Gentiles in equality as believers (3:6), and revealed something hidden in the past (3:9).

Revelation BTW is ἀποκάλυψις  
Apokalypsis apo ko lip sis a disclosure of truth previously undisclosed.

In fact just a look at a concordance, we see Paul proclaim the mystery of the Gospel with boldness (EPH 6:19 and COL 4:3). This mystery was revealed to other believers (COL 1:26). Paul also revealed the mystery of Christ returning (1COR 15:51–58).

**3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.**

**as I wrote before in brief.** This leads some to believe Paul is referring to Colossians, others think that Paul is referring to the earlier parts of this letter to Ephesians. Not sure it is that important which.

**4 By referring to this, when you read (aganosko = acknowledge) you can**

**understand** [nay oh = to have understanding after pondering considering it] **my insight into the mystery** [mysterion = hidden = mystery] **of Christ,**

Paul did not hesitate to claim that the mystery (previously not revealed) he will reveal what was given to him by revelation (apok al'ip sis = disclosure of truth and instruction concerning things before unknown).

GOD used Paul to declare specifically how Jews and Gentiles would be joined together in one body of Christ. Paul trusted that his audience would understand what GOD revealed to him.

/Paul noted that reading and acknowledging his letter would give



wisdom into the mystery of Christ. The idea of understanding Paul's insight was that of the readers understanding what Paul knew about the unity that was now available between Jews and Gentiles in Christ.

**4 By referring to this, when you acknowledge [read] you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,**

**5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**

Paul noted that reading his letter would give wisdom into the mystery of Christ. We call it the mystery of the Doctrine or

instruction for the believers in the dispensation of the Church age.

/Ephesians seems to have been written for more than one congregation. So, these words would have had a more important application as many readers would be included.

**4 you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,**

**5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**

**6 that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**

**7 of which I was made a minister,  
according to the gift of God's grace  
which was given to me according to the  
working of His power.**

**6 *to be specific*, not in the original that  
the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow  
members of the body, and fellow  
partakers of the promise in Christ  
Jesus through the gospel,**

**/This describes the mystery itself – that  
believing Jews and believing Gentiles are  
joined together into one body of Christ,  
into one Church, and no longer separated  
before GOD.**

**The truth of this mystery means that  
Gentiles are now full heirs and partakers  
of HIS promise. This was a privilege no**

longer reserved only for the believing Jewish person.

This could only happen through the Gospel, where all men have an equal standing in Yeshua.

This is the same Gospel Paul is a servant of, because of the gift of Grace given to him by the working of GOD's power.

This mystery revealed to the apostles and prophets included three aspects.

/First, that Gentile and Jewish believers in the Messiah are now equal members in a spiritual family. We call the Royal Family.

/Second, Gentiles are members of the same body with Jewish believers. The Church, from the very beginning,

consisted of all people who believed in Yeshua, not merely those of Jewish descent.

/Third, the Gospel was not limited to Jews, but was available for all who would believe. Paul started the book of Romans off with that thought.

This was why Yeshua could command the disciples to make disciples of all nations in the great commission, MAT 28:18–20). That is our calling.

Paul was specifically called as a missionary to the Gentiles. This included the Ephesian Christians, who were mostly Gentiles.

As Paul said in

**/GAL 3:28, There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

These ideas would have been comforting for Gentile Christians, and challenging for Jewish Christians. The long-standing barrier between Jews and Gentiles was now meaningless, with all believers united in Christ. Paul talked about that very thing in the last section of his letter.

**6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**

**7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace**

**which was given to me according to the working of His power.**

Paul says he is a minister, but that is a title of service,

In Greek it is dee ak kin os (diakonos) where we get deacon, and deacons need to realize that they are servants. If they don't want to be a servant, don't be a deacon.

Paul approaches his work as that of service, rather than that of status, which he could have, after all he was an Apostle.

/But He serves according to the gift of GOD's grace. Paul knows what all servants of GOD should know and remember...our ability to serve is based

on our GOD—given spiritual gift and our GOD given talent.

The sign of a true Christian leader is a person who recognizes his or her leadership is a gift from GOD and uses this gift to serve others.

He was no different from the believers he wrote to, other than receiving a spiritual calling to lead as an apostle to the Gentiles. BTW, Peter called to serve as an apostle to the Jews. Actually, he was the first to mention or break the news to the Jews that guess what, the gentiles are coming into the fold.

**Remember vs 1: For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles.**



And then it is as though Paul is so overcome by the awesomeness of GOD he loses track sort of and it takes him until vs 8 to get back on track so to speak.

**8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,**

**9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;**

**10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.**

**8 To me, the very least of all saints,  
this grace was given, to preach to the  
Gentiles the unfathomable riches of  
Christ,**

Paul marveled at the grace given to him  
(as we all do if we truly understand what  
HIS grace has done for us), by which he  
was called to preach the Gospel.

Preachers especially, but it applies to us  
all, but preachers ought to grow in grace,  
for their very calling places them at a  
great advantage, since they are called by  
GOD to search the Scriptures.

/The Greek word for preach is  
εὐαγγελίζω euangelizō (V) and literally  
means “to announce good news.” Paul’s  
preaching was simply the announcement

of the good news of what GOD has done in Yeshua.

One commentator put it like this:

/Paul tried to figure out the greatness of GOD's grace, and started thinking about it like it was 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. Even in Heaven we will be growing in HIS Grace and in HIS knowledge...

Think we will be standing around wondering what to do next, counting off day on a heavenly calendar. NO, we will be growing. How exciting.

Spurgeon:

/I am bold to tell you that my Master's 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 at the very gates of hell, he is able to pluck you from the jaws of destruction.

**8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,**

**9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;**

**10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through**

**the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.**

Paul wrote that the community of Christian believers—the Church including us—to reveal the wisdom of GOD in this mystery.

This revelation is made to **the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.** Who are these rulers and authorities? The mention of heavenly places is the spiritual realm. Those in the spiritual realm is GOD (the Trinity), angels, fallen angels, demons and Satan.

/Paul's implication is that GOD's wisdom is known, even among angels of the spiritual realm, as a result of what is taking place through the Church.

This what we know that angelic beings are not omniscient; they can learn and grow in wisdom.

/Certain mysteries of GOD have been hidden from those in the spiritual realm as well. Remember **1PE 1:12 says: Even angels long to look into these things.**

Look is the verb para koop to = which is like rubber necking.....

**11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,**

**12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.**

This mystery which GOD has revealed regards Jews and Gentiles as one, that is the first 10 verses. Though not fully

explained until now, this is not a new idea. GOD knew about it in eternity past. Scriptures imply GOD's intentions before the foundations of the earth.

/Paul notes that this it was part of GOD's eternal purpose. GOD has always known HIS plan and revealed it exactly as HE desired to do. GOD works all things according to the counsel of HIS will.

Paul began that in **EPH 1:11**, we have **obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,**

This plan was revealed through Yeshua. HE is the Messiah, HE is the fulfillment of all of the Messianic prophecies, HE is the One Who would come.

HE is GOD with us (Emmanuel = GOD with us), and the Suffering Servant (ISA 53).

/It is through Yeshua that salvation has been provided equally for both Jew and Gentile, not through the law, but through faith in HIM Yeshua.

**13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.**

Because of their reasons for great confidence, Paul suggests his readers should not be discouraged to hear of his struggles.

**Remember 2COR 4:1, Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.**



Paul again acknowledges his ministry is because of GOD, not his own human accomplishments.

And that is true of any Pastor preacher. Many think well I, I, I, went to 4 years of Bible cemetery school, I, I, I, I, I, deserve to make a living from teaching GOD's word. For the true preacher, it is a calling from GOD....and HE will provide JAM 4:2 is often abused.

By the end of his life, Paul still considered himself the chief of sinners (we will see that in 1TIM 1:15), though GOD had used him greatly to impact many lives.

Paul also calls his suffering something which is their glory. He uses glory six times in this letter, yet only here does he

mention something intended for the church's glory, rather than for GOD's. I think that is true.

/The idea is to be that Paul suffered on their behalf, and did so honorably. He was not arrested for lawless activities, or immorality, but rather for his faith in Yeshua.

Is that a lesson for today? Maybe.

As a result, many had come to faith and spoke out more boldly for the LORD. They could be encouraged at how GOD continued to work in Paul's ministry, despite all Paul was facing at the time.

**14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,**

Paul here changes the flow of his letter away from the discussion of the mystery of GOD to a time of prayer.

Paul's prayer is based on what he had previously discussed, which is why he began this section with the phrase: **“For this reason”**.

He starts his prayer by referring to his sense of humility, through "bowing" before GOD.

**/14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, κάμπτω (kamptō) is the Greek word for bow = to bend at the knee. Same word used in PHI 2:10, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

Originally from ISA 45 I think, you can look it up...

Paul knew that "at the name of Yeshua every knee should and will eventually bow. This also powerfully connected with his last meeting with the Ephesian elders.

Paul also might have been also blending it into their memory of the last time the elders at Ephesus had seen Paul.

**/ACT 20:36-38, And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.**

**Back to EPH 3.**

**EPH 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,**

**15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,**

In remembering that all GOD's family is called after HIS name, Paul showed that Paul was focusing on the essential unity of the Body of Christ. That Christ is the Messiah for all; Jew and Gentile.

/EPH 3:14–21 is a prayer from Paul on behalf of the Christians of Ephesus. This prayer begins a transition from the first half of his letter, focused on doctrinal ideas, to the second half, where those ideas are put into practice.

So, this is the point of transition, right here where we are in our study.

The theme for this transition is a prayer for spiritual strength from GOD. In particular, Paul asks GOD to help the Ephesians exhibit a faith which goes beyond knowledge (doctrine) into action (application).

**14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,**

**15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,**

**16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

Paul continues the prayer he began in Vs 14 with a focus on the glory of GOD. He uses similar wording in ROM 9:23 regarding **the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy.**

Paul writes about GOD's glory throughout Ephesians to remind the audience (including us) to focus on GOD.

Paul then asks GOD for deep, spiritual strength from GOD, through the Holy Spirit, for these Christians in Ephesus. Paul's emphasis on the Trinity in this section is also evident.

/He bows before the Father (Ephesians 3:14), mentions the Spirit here, and will mention Christ in verse 17 as part of the same prayer.

**16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

The inner man is the spiritual part of a person. Paul desires for the Holy Spirit to work in the Spiritual life of the Ephesians and us by extension us as well.

**/16 that He [GOD] would grant [δίδωμι Didōmi = gift aorist done in the eternity past] you [su = plural = anyone], according to the riches of His glory [Yeshua], to be strengthened [κραταιόω Krataioō = passive voice we receive the strength] with power [δύναμις Dynamis =dynamite] through His Spirit [Holy**



**Spirit] in the inner man** [the new creature],

Paul prayed that they would be granted strengthened with power, and that the strength would be according to the riches of HIS glory. He also prayed that the strength would come through the Holy Spirit and that it would be put into their inner man.

**16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

**17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

/Dwell is the Greek word κατοικέω Katoikeō for a permanent home. Yeshua wants to settle down in your heart, not just visit as a stranger.

### **18 may be able to comprehend**

[καταλαμβάνω katalambanō = to lay hold of to possesses the knowledge] **with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**

Paul wants his readers to grow in understanding GOD's love (agape). Something that can only be grasped, comprehended possessed as a reality and that only comes from a GOD-given spiritual strength.

Paul used the phrase "all the saints" eleven different times in his New Testament writings, and as far as I can

see, every time referring to the entire group of believers. The term is not used in the Bible as a reference to a special class of people, like the Catholics use the term.

**with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, To know the love of Christ:**

The OT often used "height and depth" regarding measurements.

Paul uses these figurative terms in relationship to GOD's love that of course we know cannot be measured. However, man can appreciate the fact that GOD's love is not measurable.

Believers can continue to grow in their understanding of GOD's love, to keep learning about it, experiencing it...

Paul knew GOD's love was not a measurable thing was a real, substantial, measurable thing; yet to express that very thought Paul uses measurable terms.

4 has a context of the world, the universe, all, 4 seasons, directions measurements as Paul will use.

**/The love of Jesus has width or breadth.** GOD's love is so wide that it covers over our sins, so that all things can work together for good.

HIS love is as wide as the world. **JOH 3:16, For God so loved the world.**

/The love of Jesus has length. When considering the length of GOD's love Scripture says it is everlasting. **JER 31:3, Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love.**

The length of the love of GOD is everlasting, never ending, that is pretty long right?

/The love of GOD has depth. PHI 2:7-8 tell us how deep the love of GOD goes: **but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

You can't go lower than the death on the Cross, and that is how deep the love of GOD is for us. That HE gave HIS only SON. And the love of the father and the Son and the HS is what I'm referring to.

/The love of GOD has height. To see the height of GOD's love remember

**EPH 2:6, HE has raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

Can we really comprehend the width and length and depth and height of GOD's love? Well, to even begin to appreciate or comprehend it, we need to come to the Cross.

/The Cross pointed in every direction,  
because...GOD's love is wide enough to  
include everyone who would believe...

GOD's love is long enough to be  
eternity.

GOD's love is deep enough to reach the  
worst sinner.

GOD's love is high enough to take us to  
Heaven to be with GOD forever.

**19 and to know the love of Christ  
which surpasses knowledge, that you  
may be filled up to all the fullness of  
God.**

**and to know [ginosko = understand] the  
love [agape] of Christ which surpasses  
[pleroo fill to the fullest] = knowledge,**

**that you may be filled up [pleroo] to all the fullness [pleroo] of God.**

**20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,**

**21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.**