



Study of Ephesians 3
A Life Lived in the Spirit
EMPOWERED AND STRENGTHENED

Study of Ephesians 3

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- Chapter 3 of Ephesians is a wrap-up chapter. Its intent is to bring the teachings of Chapter 1 and 2 into a tight integrated conclusion regarding the incorporation of the Gentiles into the predestined plan of salvation, and ultimately into the ranks of spiritual warriors.



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SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

- In Chapter One:

The Trinity is established as the only One who existed before time, and that through them, the heavenly hosts are created, followed by the Creation of the earth.



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SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

- The Rebellion: At some point before the creation of the heavenly host, i.e., before Genesis, the concept of free will was established in order for genuine love of the Trinity to be expressed.
- But, this concept enabled all created beings to accept or reject the Triune God. This led to a rebellion
- Satan wanted the angels to worship him, and indeed 1/3 of the angels accepted his invitation. This resulted in a dividing wall of hostility (Chp 2) that sent things into chaos.



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SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

- We further heard, in chapter 1 & 2, that because of the promise made in Genesis 3 after the Fall, even though human beings failed, it would still be a human being that would crush the serpent's head.
- God knew He Himself would have to come in the person of the second member of the Trinity, Jesus the Christ.
- The coming of Jesus enabled the promised victory by Father God to bring all things into unity.

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SUMMARY INTRODUCTION



- We then heard that the predetermined plan of God, emanating from His perfect will, was to fling wide the door of salvation to ALL PEOPLE. Thus, the Gentiles would be adopted into the family as full members with all the rights and privileges thereto, previously given only to the Chosen People.
- This is no small gift, and therefore it became imperative, if we Gentiles were going to come into the Family of God as sons and daughters, that we also understand fully and completely our condition prior to the invitation, and our eternal destiny without the invitation.



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SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

- The “In Him” Gifts of Grace:
 - In Him, we are redeemed
 - In Him we are made a part of the predestined plan
 - In Him we are sealed with the Holy Spirit
 - In Him, we are being built into a new tabernacle for God.
- Underlining all this is the utter importance of unity. Without unity, there can be no unified spiritual forces to share the plan of salvation, God pre-purposed, from all eternity.

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EPHESIANS 3:1-3



- *“For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.”*
- The word he often used is “slave, but because of modern sensibilities, the word has been changed to servant where the Greek word “doulos,” is used. Servant and slave are not exactly the same thing.
- A servant, unless bonded, can leave his master, but a slave is permanently bonded to the master. Paul is permanently, and inextricably bond to his Master, Jesus the Christ.



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EPHESIANS 3:4-5

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

- There was a mystery surrounding the faith, that was unknown to all the people of faith in the past, including the Chosen People.
- It was a mystery hidden deep inside the Trinity.
- What was this mystery that is now being unveiled?



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EPHESIANS 3:6

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

- The word that excluded the Gentile nations is exclusive no more.
- 2 messages being conveyed in this sixth verse



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EPHESIANS 3:6

- 2 messages being conveyed in this sixth verse
 1. **To the Gentiles:** you need to understand, the door of the faith is being opened to you not because you were needed, nor because you earned it in any fashion whatsoever. This door is being opened because of the love of God.
 2. **To the Jewish community:** Paul states emphatically that this is his special calling, his specific ministry, which is to proclaim to the Gentiles, the door is open, come on in!!

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EPHESIANS 3:7-9

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things...

- Paul's ministry has been plagued with doubt and inuendo.
- Therefore, in almost every letter, Paul protests vigorously about the source and authority of his ministry.





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EPHESIANS 3:7-9

- Verse 7: Paul says his ministry is given by the gift of God's grace AND the workings of His power.
 - Why is this important? What Paul is sharing is revelation based on what he was privileged to see in Heaven.
 - Therefore, **IF IT IS NOT ANCHORED** in the authority and power of God, it becomes extra-biblical and worse yet, may very well be a fable.

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EPHESIANS 3:7-9



- But Paul is anchored in authority because he is an Apostle. He not only saw Jesus face to Face, he was commissioned by Jesus.
- What is more, Paul says in verse 8, what I am sharing with you has to be direct revelation from the Father. There is no way I could have come up with it otherwise.
- Paul uses the phrase the “unsearchable riches of Christ.” He uses a similar Greek word in Romans 15. What it means lies in the fact that the depth of mystery and wonder in what God is doing is so deep, so wide, and so high, the human mind cannot possibly search them to any significant degree.



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EPHESIANS 3:7-9

- The implementation of the top-secret plan began with the dawn of Creation. Once the plan achieved success at the cross and subsequent resurrection, the implementation phase began.
- The battle plan for defeating the Rebellion, required weaker created beings standing firm against the stronger angelic beings.
- If the weaker human creatures would put their trust and confidence in Father God, they would be able to hold their ground.
- Where does it say that humanity was now to carry out the Battle Plan?



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EPHESIANS 3:10

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

- Father God says, I am depositing the Battle Plans into the church. It is the church triumphant that will demonstrate to the rulers and authorities – IN HEAVENLY PLACES!



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- If the church puts their trust in the Triune God, THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT!!



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- If the church puts their trust in the Triune God, **THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT!!**
- Why did Jesus say that?



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- If the church puts their trust in the Triune God, **THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT!!**
- Why did Jesus say that?
- We are in the midst of a spiritual battle against the demonic forces that rebelled against Father God, trying to steal His glory.



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EPHESIANS 3:10

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- This is the mystery being unveiled: something happened in Heaven that has to be dealt with once and for all, and we have been given the privilege to participate in the annihilation of this demonic force.



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EPHESIANS 3:11

“This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord...”

- In other words, this was Father God’s purpose from all eternity.
- *Also Titus 1:1-3 “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;”*



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EPHESIANS 3:12-13

“...in Christ Jesus our Lord in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”

- We hear from Paul through the Holy Spirit at the end of verse 11, because the Battle Plan of Father God was so successful, we have two highly effective spiritual weapons:
 1. The gift of the Holy Spirit residing within us.
 2. We can afford to be a) bold, and b) we can anticipate confident access to the Throne of Grace



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SUMMARY OF EPHESIANS 3

- 1) Paul is telling us, if we will accept as true, that at the heart of the mystery of faith, is a spiritual war brought on by the rebellion of Satan, which triggered the First Coming of Jesus, followed by His victorious death on the cross and subsequent resurrection, and,
- 2) If we will accept as true that Jesus now sits at the right-hand side of the Father, and,
- 3) If we accept as true that through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit now residing in us, we now have boldness and confident access to the Throne of Grace, and,



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SUMMARY OF EPHESIANS 3

4) If we will accept as true that as a result of this boldness and confident access, we are now stronger than the demonic forces that ran rough shod over us in the Garden and thereafter until Bethlehem followed by Golgotha, then,

5) We can be a warrior instead of a victim in this Spiritual War that is going to rage until the Second Coming of Jesus. It is your choice, loved ones.



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

- Verses 14-19 is an impartation prayer for Holy Spirit power to be released into the hearer.
 - The prayer starts out, verse 14, with, “For this reason...”

Here is the reason:



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 1. Because the plan of God was established before Creation and therefore, before the anointing established in Pentecost
 2. Because the genetic line of every family runs through the first couple and therefore, we are all one family whether Gentile or Jew

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I bow the knee



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

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 - The second thing we notice, is the fact that the power source of this prayer is the Holy Spirit.



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 - The second thing we notice, is the fact that the power source of this prayer is the Holy Spirit.
 - **Paul is praying for the impartation of Holy Spirit power so that Jesus may dwell in our hearts through faith ALONE.**

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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

- Because of this impartation of Holy Spirit power, you will now know without question, that you will be rooted and grounded in His love.



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

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- Because of this impartation of Holy Spirit power, you will now know without question, that you will be rooted and grounded in His love.
 - **You are rooted**, in other words these are deep roots that go the heart of the Father.
 - **You are also grounded**, i.e., you are not going anywhere from the circle of influence around the Father.
 - ❖ “Grounded” in the Greek has the sense of a firm foundation.



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

- Because of this impartation of Holy Spirit power, you will now know without question, that you will be rooted and grounded in His love.
- **Because you are now rooted and grounded** in the heart of the Father, you will be given to know just how deep, and how wide, and how high, is the love of the Triune God.



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

- Paul's prayer of impartation, then gives God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, ALLLL the glory and praise that is due the Name of the Triune God.
- 1. Paul begins by acknowledging that our ways are not God's ways. The NKJV says, "*Now to Him who is able to exceedingly and abundantly do more than we can ask or think...*"



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 2. The Holy Spirit says through Paul, **DO NOT LIMIT THE POWER THAT HAS NOW BEEN INVESTED IN YOU.**



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

Become a Spiritual Warrior!
Demonstrate to the fallen angels, i.e.,
the demonic host, that despite their
superior strength...
they do not have superior power.



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PRAYER OF IMPARTATION EPH 3:14-21

*Greater is He who is
IN you...
than he who is in the
world!!*