

Approximately Expository 35 minutes




Sermon Title: “Rooted in Love, Filled with Power” Text: Ephesians Chapter 3:

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the mighty name of Jesus. Thank You for Your living Word. Thank You that it speaks to us today just as powerfully as it did when it was first written. Open our hearts. Give us understanding by Your Holy Spirit. Strengthen us in our inner being. And Lord, if anyone listening does not yet know You, draw them by Your love and save them by Your grace. May Jesus be glorified in everything. In His name we pray, Amen.

Historical Setting:

The Apostle Paul wrote Ephesians around A.D. 60-62 while under house arrest in Rome. He wasn't in a palace. He wasn't on a platform. He was chained to a Roman guard.

Ephesus was a powerful city wealthy, influential, filled with idol worship, occult practices, and the massive Temple of Artemis  **AR-tuh-miss**. It was spiritually dark.



Yet revival had broken out there through Paul's ministry (Acts chp 19). Lives were changed. Magic scrolls were burned. Jesus was exalted.

Now Paul writes to strengthen believers not just to teach doctrine, but to anchor their identity in Christ.

- In chapter 1 we saw our spiritual blessings.
- In chapter 2 we saw we were dead but made alive.

Now in chapter 3, Paul reveals something glorious the mystery of Christ and then he prays one of the most powerful prayers in Scripture.

I. The Mystery Revealed:

  (NIV) ***Ephesians 3:1-6 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—***

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the

mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Paul begins:

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles...” (v.1)

  Notice he doesn't call himself a prisoner of Rome.

He calls himself a  prisoner of Christ.

! Even in chains, he knows who is sovereign.

He explains that God gave him a revelation:

“the mystery made known to me by revelation...” (v.3)

In the Bible, a mystery isn't something mysterious forever. It's something once hidden but now revealed.

 What is the mystery?

“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body...”
(v.6)

This was radical.

For centuries, Israel was distinct. Gentiles were outsiders.

 But now, **through Jesus**, Jew and Gentile become **one body**.

- Salvation is not ethnical.
- It is not cultural.
- It is not earned.

👉 It is through Christ alone.

🔓 🗝️ And Brothers and Sisters, that means this gospel is for everyone.

II. The Grace Given to Paul:

📖 ✝️ (NIV) ***Ephesians 3:7-13*** ⁷ ***I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.*** ⁸ ***Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,*** ⁹ ***and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.*** ¹⁰ ***His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in***

the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Paul says:

“I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me...” (v.7)

Paul never got over grace.

Remember, Paul had not always been a preacher of the Gospel. Before Jesus saved him, Paul was an enemy of the church.

- He approved when Stephen, one of the first Christian witnesses, was stoned to death.

- He watched over the coats of those who killed him.
- Then Paul went even further. He entered homes, dragged off Christian men and women, and had them thrown into prison.
- He tried to destroy the church.

Paul was so committed to stopping Christianity that he received authority to travel to Damascus and arrest believers there.

👉 In his own mind, he thought he was serving God, but he was actually fighting against Christ.

💡 That is why **grace** amazed him so deeply.

The same **Jesus** Paul had opposed met him on the road to Damascus, forgave him, saved him, and called him to preach the very Gospel he once tried to destroy.

So when Paul says, **“Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me,...”**^(v.8) he is not using empty words.

- He remembers who he was.
- He remembers what he did.
- And he cannot get over the mercy of God.

! Grace humbles the heart.

The more a person understands the grace of God, the less room there is for pride.

Paul knew he did not deserve to be saved, much less called to preach. Yet God not only forgave him God gave him a mission.


Paul says his mission was:

“....to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ.”^(v.8)

 What a beautiful phrase **the**
boundless riches of Christ. (v.8)

 That means everything we need is found in Jesus.

- His grace cannot be used up.
- His mercy has no bottom.
- His love cannot be measured.
- His forgiveness is greater than our sin,
- His power is greater than our weakness,
- and His riches are enough for every person who comes to Him by faith.

 You can search Christ for a lifetime and still never reach the end of His glory.

And then Paul says something astonishing:

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...” (v.10)

🤔 Through the church.

🤔 Through imperfect, redeemed sinners.

👉 God displays His wisdom to the spiritual realm.

The church is not an afterthought.

It is part of God's eternal plan.



So Paul says:

“I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you...” (v.13)

Suffering does not mean God has lost control.

👉 Even in prison, God's plan is advancing.

III. Paul's Prayer for Strength:

  (NIV) **Ephesians 3:14-17** ¹⁴ **For this reason I kneel before the Father,** ¹⁵ **from**

whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

Now Paul shifts from teaching to prayer.

“For this reason I kneel before the Father,” (v.14)

This is a posture of surrender.

   What does he pray?

- Not for wealth.
- Not for safety.
- Not for comfort.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.” (v.16)

👉 Christianity is not behavior modification.

🔓🔑 It is inner transformation.

You need strength in your inner being.

- Because life is hard.
- Temptation is real.
- The enemy attacks.

💡 But God strengthens you from the inside out.

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith....” (v.17)

That word **“dwell”** means to settle down, to make Himself at home.

😬 Is Jesus at home in your heart?

Or is He a guest you only visit on Sundays?

IV. Rooted and Established in Love:

Ephesians 3:17-19 ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and

established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Paul continues:

“...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love...” (v.17)

- Rooted ... like a tree.
- Established ... like a building.

Your life must be anchored in love.

- Not fear.
- Not performance.
- Not religion.

 Love.

Then Paul says something breathtaking:

“may have power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” (v.18)

 How wide?

Wide enough to cover every sin.

 How long?

Long enough to last eternity.

 How high?

High enough to lift you to heaven.

 How deep?

Deep enough to reach you in your darkest moment.

! Let that set in for a moment.....

And then: Verse 19....

“and to know this love that surpasses knowledge...” (v.19)




You can know the love of Christ personally, even though you will never be able to fully explain it.

His love is greater than our minds can understand, but it is not beyond our hearts to experience.

 And what is the result?

Paul says:



“....that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (v.19)

   That means God does not want us living spiritually empty, dry, or distant from Him. He wants our lives to be filled with His presence, His strength, His love, His peace, and His power.

- Not half-empty Christianity.
- Not lifeless religion.
- Not just going through the motions.

  But a life filled with the fullness of God.

V. God Is Able to Do More Than We Can Imagine:

  (NIV) ***Ephesians 3:20-21*** ²⁰ ***Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*** ²¹ ***to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.***

Paul closes with one of the greatest statements in Scripture:

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...” (v.20)

! Immeasurably more.

God is not limited by your imagination.

👉 He is able.

😲 And how does He do it?

“....according to his power that is at work within us.” (v.20)

His power is already at work **in believers.**

“to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (v.21)

🔓 🗝️ It's all about His glory.

Not ours.

Invitation: Come Into This Love:

🤔 Maybe today you hear about this love wide, long, high, deep and you realize something.

💡 You've never experienced it.

- Maybe you've known religion.
- Maybe you've tried to be good.
- Maybe you've carried guilt.

The Bible says: Verse 12.....

“through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (v.12)

👉 You can come to God today.

- Jesus died on the cross for your sins.
- He rose again.
- He offers forgiveness, adoption, eternal life.

You don't earn it.

👉 You receive it.

Right now, wherever you are, you can pray:

🙏 Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins and rose again.... I confess I need You.... Forgive me.... Come dwell in my heart.... Make me alive.... Root me in Your love.... I trust You as my Savior and Lord.... Amen.”

! **“If”** you prayed that from your heart, you are born again.

- You are forgiven.
- You are a child of the King!!!
- You are now a citizen of Heaven.

👉 🛎 Welcome to the family of God!!!

Closing:

Brothers and Sisters, remember:

- You are part of God's eternal mystery.
- You are strengthened by His Spirit.
- You are rooted in His love.
- You are filled with His fullness.
- And He is able to do immeasurably more.

👉 Walk in that strength.

👉 Rest in that love.

👉 Live for His glory.

🙏 Let us Pray....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for revealing the mystery of Christ. Thank You for loving us with a love that is beyond measure. Strengthen us in our inner being. Root us deeply in Your love. Fill us with Your fullness. And Lord, for anyone who has come to You today, seal them with Your Spirit and grow them strong in faith. May all glory be Yours in the church forever and ever. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20