

EPHESIANS - Chapters 1-3 - The believer's wealth in Christ



Pastor Tom Gang – Sunday, January 31, 2010

The letter to the Ephesians divides into two clear parts – Chapters 1-3 are doctrinal in nature and detail our _____ in Christ. Chapters 4-6 show how these deep truths translate into our daily life or _____ with Christ. Bridging the gap between the two parts is chapter 3, where Paul presents himself as:

- 1) A prisoner – verse 1
- 2) A propagator – verse 2-4
- 3) A partner – verses 5-7
- 4) A preacher – verse 8-9
- 5) A picture – verses 10-13
- 6) A prayer – verses 14-19

This prayer represents our needs as believers and concludes with us standing upon all the fullness of God – the sum total of all the energies and attributes of God. He prays that our entire existence would be _____ with God's presence and power. This petition staggers the imagination and may seem impossible until we realize it is God that works inside us to complete all these needs. Today we finish with a _____ and a _____. Whatever our requests may be, we can never exceed God's ability to answer; whatever state we may be in, we can never forget our unique ability to glorify our Creator and to manifest his unfailing grace.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21 – The mystery of Christ – part four

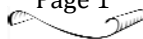
1. A promise – Ephesians 3:20
 - a. God is able to do:
 - Exceeding - Over and above, beyond, greater than what is expected
 - Abundantly - In large quantities, plentifully, lavishly, generously, in abundance
 - Above _____ that we ask or think

Ask –

*The salvation of a friend, relative, parent, child, or spouse?
Help in time of trouble?
Answers to a difficult circumstance?
Victory over a particular sin?
Provision of a job, a friend, a spouse, or a child?
Blessing on a ministry?
Healing from pain, sorrow, loss, injury, or illness?*

Think –

*Secret hopes and dreams
Desires for godliness and holiness
Longings for true happiness
True love
Security
Safety
Peace
Fulfillment in all areas of life*



Important note: Whatever our requests may be, we can _____ exceed God's ability to answer. However, the answers do _____ always come the way we expect – Acts 16:6-9; 18:19-21; 19:1-20; Romans 1:10-13; Phil. 1:12

b. According to the _____ that worketh _____ us...

2. A purpose – Ephesians 3:21

a. To _____ God in the church

- Personally

*The daily decisions we make both small and great
Our priorities and values
What we allow our eyes to see and our ears to hear
What we put into our body
Where we allow our feet to take us
How we forgive others
How we love and pray for others
How we respond to trials and temptations
How we spend our money, what we keep, what we give to God
How we use our time
How we respond to what the Bible says
How we behave and speak
How we mature as human beings and children of God
Our personal testimony in everything we do*

- Publically

*Our worship
Our assembly together
Our church's testimony
In the way we operate and conduct our affairs
In the way we love and serve one another
In the quality of our ministries
In our open desire to love and serve Christ
In our longing for his appearing
In the fulfillment of our mission as a church:*

*To GLORIFY GOD by:
RECONCILING each individual to Him through his Son
CONFORMING them into his image through His Word
PERFECTING them to minister his Word to the world*

b. To glorify God _____