

WALKING WITH JESUS A STUDY IN DISCIPLESHIP



— Who we are in Christ as his people



— What we do in Christ as his disciples

EPHESIANS 3

1 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.

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.

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, 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.

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

22

Members of the single body of Christ, sharing in the promises that come through him (v. 6)

23

As the church, carriers of the wisdom of God (v. 10)

3

Demonstrate faith in Christ (v. 12)

24

Enabled to approach God with freedom and confidence (v. 12)

PAUL PRAYS THAT THE NEW DISCIPLES WOULD BE:

25

Strengthened with the Spirit's power deep within (v. 16)

26

Occupied by Christ in their hearts (v. 17)

27

Rooted and established in love (v. 17)

28

Possess power to grasp the fullness of Christ's love and receive that fullness (vv. 18-19)

be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

4 — Give glory to God (v. 21)

“There is in the heart of every child and teenager and adult the need and longing to sing a doxology. We may sing it more lustily to athletes or rock stars or architecture or space technology or politicians or purple mountain majesties, than we do to God. But there is no denying that the doxology is there in every heart. We were made to worship and sing. We were made to have a hero to brag about, namely, God... But the experience of having your heart soar in admiration to GOD depends on whether you have ears to hear and eyes to see that above and behind every admirable thing on earth stands the magnificence and beauty of God.” -John Piper

EPHESIANS 4

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

8 This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people” (Psalm 68:18).

9 (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

5 — Live a life worthy of our calling (v. 1)

6 — Be completely humble and gentle (v. 2)

7 — Be patient, bearing with others in love (v. 3)

8 — Keep unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (v. 3)

29 — Called to one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father (vv. 4-6)

30 — Equipped by God's leaders for works of service (v. 12)

“Sometimes when the church debates the nature of different offices and ministries, you get the impression that these things exist for their own sake, as though the main point of there being a church in the first place was that certain people would be ‘special’ within it. The opposite is the case. The main point of certain people having special roles is so that every single Christian, and the church as a whole, may be equipped for their work of service. Make no mistake. Verse 12 indicates clearly that the point of God calling people to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers is so that every Christian can serve in the way they are called to do, for the building up of the whole body.”

-N.T. Wright