



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 10 Issue 184

May 31, 2011

## Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord thank you for drawing us to You and for us being redeemed by You. Led and guide us this week as we go forth; at home, at work, and in the community; fill us with Your will and plans and if a person crosses our path whom You want us to speak to, fill our mouth with what You want said; and fill us how to pray for people whom You bring across our spirit. Keep us and supply our daily bread. Cause Your agape love, compassion, mercy and kindness to well up in each of us, in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## Worship Music

[Eagle Wings-Hillsongs](#)

[The Potter's Hand-Darlene Zschech](#)

[Through It All-Darlene Zschech](#)

[You Are My King-Newsboys](#)

## Scripture

**Ephesians 3 (KJV; 2005)**

### Ephesians 3:1-21 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup>For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,  
<sup>2</sup>If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:  
<sup>3</sup>How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,  
<sup>4</sup>Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)  
<sup>5</sup>Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;  
<sup>6</sup>That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:  
<sup>7</sup>Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.  
<sup>8</sup>Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;  
<sup>9</sup>And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:  
<sup>10</sup>To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,  
<sup>11</sup>According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:  
<sup>12</sup>In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.  
<sup>13</sup>Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.  
<sup>14</sup>For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>15</sup>Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,  
<sup>16</sup>That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;  
<sup>17</sup>That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
<sup>18</sup>May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
<sup>19</sup>And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.  
<sup>20</sup>Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,  
<sup>21</sup>Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

## Radio Stations...

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOVE](#)

## Bible Studies

Chuck Smith

[Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

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 ing list, please [click here](#)

**THE APOSTLE SETS FORTH HIS OFFICE, AND HIS QUALIFICATIONS FOR IT, AND HIS CALL TO IT. (3:1-7)**

For having preached the doctrine of truth, the apostle was a prisoner, but a prisoner of Jesus Christ; the object of special protection and care, while thus suffering for him. All the gracious offers of the gospel, and the joyful tidings it contains, come from the rich grace of God; it is the great means by which the Spirit works grace in the souls of men. The mystery, is that secret, hidden purpose of salvation through Christ. This was not so fully and clearly shown in the ages before Christ, as unto the prophets of the New Testament. This was the great truth made known to the apostle, that God would call the Gentiles to salvation by faith in Christ. An effectual working of Divine power attends the gifts of Divine grace. As God appointed Paul to the office, so he qualified him for it.

**ALSO THE NOBLE PURPOSES ANSWERED BY IT. (3:8-12)**

Those whom God advances to honorable employments, he makes low in their own eyes; and where God gives grace to be humble, there he gives all other needful grace. How highly he speaks of Jesus Christ; the unsearchable riches of Christ! Though many are not enriched with these riches; yet how great a favor to have them preached among us, and to have an offer of them! And if we are not enriched with them it is our own fault. The first creation, when God made all things out of nothing, and the new creation, whereby sinners are made new creatures by converting grace, are of God by Jesus Christ. His riches are as unsearchable and as sure as ever, yet while angels adore the wisdom of God in the redemption of his church, the ignorance of self-wise and carnal men deems the whole to be foolishness.

**HE PRAYS FOR THE EPHESIANS. (3:13-19)**

The apostle seems to be more anxious lest the believers should be discouraged and faint upon his tribulations, than for what he himself had to bear. He asks for spiritual blessings, which are the best blessings. Strength from the Spirit of God in the inner man; strength in the soul; the strength of faith, to serve God, and to do our duty. If the law of Christ is written in our hearts, and the love of Christ is shed abroad there, then Christ dwells there. Where his Spirit dwells, there he dwells. We should desire that good affections may be fixed in us. And how desirable to have a fixed sense of the love of God in Christ to our souls! How powerfully the apostle speaks of the love of Christ! The breadth shows its extent to all nations and ranks; the length, that it continues from everlasting to everlasting; the depth, its saving those who are sunk into the depths of sin and misery; the height, its raising them up to heavenly happiness and glory. Those who receive grace for grace from Christ's fullness, may be said to be filled with the fullness of God. Should not this satisfy man? Must he needs fill himself with a thousand trifles, fancying thereby to complete his happiness?

**AND ADDS A THANKSGIVING. (3:20,21)**

It is proper always to end prayers with praises. Let us expect more, and ask for more, encouraged by what Christ has already done for our souls, being assured that the conversion of sinners, and the comfort of believers, will be to his glory, for ever and ever.

Matthew Henry Concise Bible Commentary.(2011)



God kept His plan for man hidden until He decided to reveal the mystery to His Church (1 Peter 1:12). Being on our knees is a symbol of submission and worship and giving glory and honor to God. (v9) In this passage plainly means that the nations are heirs to the promises that God gave to the Jews, which the Jews until now had thought belonged to them exclusively. That phase of God's plan had been hidden until the coming of Christ, though He had purposed it from the beginning (1:5), but now it is fully revealed, namely, that God's future world of glory will be built, not only out of the Jewish nation, but from all mankind. The united church will be the primary means by which God will display His " manifold wisdom " to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. God's eternal purpose is that Christ, the head of the church, will ultimately assume headship over the universe. The eternal destiny of the church is to rule and reign with Christ on the earth (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:2) and across the universe (Revelation 22:5). These verses put our Christian lives here on earth into an awesome perspective. We might consider our earthly experiences as God's "training camp" through which He is gathering and preparing believers for their eternal rulership with Christ. (vv. 13-21) Paul does not pray for knowledge, not even knowledge of the Bible but for that which far surpasses all knowledge; the love of Christ. This is Paul's second prayer in this epistle. "Dwell" means " to settle down and make oneself at home " (v. 17). (Halley's Bible Handbook; 2000; history and commentaries; pages 806-807)

Do you really understand the depths of God's love for you? Paul fervently prayed that the Ephesians would understand the width and length and depth and height of God's love for them, and that they would be rooted and grounded in that boundless love. Take time to meditate on [Ephesians 3:14-19](#). Ask God to reveal to you more and more of His love and to expand your capacity to receive this awesome love and all the fullness of God.

Just imagine having your personality filled with the Holy Spirit of the living God and being a body wholly filled with God Himself (see [Ephesians 3:16-19](#))! The apostle Paul was a person filled with the Holy Spirit; he was also a person who forsook all to follow Jesus. Any area of our lives that we hold back from God is an area where we cannot be filled with His Spirit. I encourage you to open and surrender every room in your heart to God. Your time is His; your money is His, as are your gifts and talents, your family, your career, thoughts, attitudes, and desires. He wants to be involved in every area of your life: how you dress, the friends you choose, what you do for entertainment, what you eat, and so on.

After conversion, Jesus is our Savior, but is He our Lord? Any area we claim as our own is one we have not surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ. The blessedness of being filled with the Spirit is clearly visible in the change in the people's lives after Pentecost. Peter, for example, who displayed great fear in not being willing to even admit that he knew Jesus, became a bold apostle who stood in the streets of Jerusalem and preached the gospel so fervently that three thousand souls were added to the church in one day (see [Acts 2:40, 41](#)).

Complete surrender to God brings good change into our lives. Surrendering to Him actually opens the door to the things we desire ( a closer love walk in His agape love, being changed as He wants us changed, being filled with His grace to go forth in His will and plans), and yet we waste our own energy trying to obtain access to them our own way. I encourage you today to surrender every area of your life to God so you may be filled to overflowing with His Spirit in every way. [Ephesians 3:20](#) teaches us that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all we could dare to hope, ask, or think, according to His great power that is at work in us. It is God's power, but it is done through us, so we need to cooperate with Him. This means we need to be daring in our faith and in our prayers. I encourage you to stretch your faith into new realms beyond your "highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams."

**Zechariah 4:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup>Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

**John 1:16 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup>And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.

**James 4:3 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup>Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

(Amplified Bible; 2005; Enjoying Everyday Life; Joyce Meyers Ministry; Scripture; Notes and commentaries; Pages 1934-1936)

**Psa 119:105**

**Thy word [is] a lamp unto  
my feet, and a light unto my path.**



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