

Impact 3:16

Strength For The Inner Man

(Ep 3:14-21)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the 3:16 passages that should have an impact on each of us.
 - a. Last week we examined **I Co 3:16** and the indwelling of the Godhead.
 - i. **I Co 3:16** “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”¹
 - b. Today we are going to examine what Paul meant the great Book of Ephesus.
 - i. **Ep 3:16** “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being”
3. Background on the text.
 - a. Paul begins his letter pointing out that the Ephesians, in Christ, have all spiritual blessings.
 - i. **Ep 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”
 - ii. Paul then goes on to point out some of the spiritual blessings.
 1. Adoption **Ep 1:5**
 2. Redemption **Ep 1:7**
 3. Foreordained **Ep 1:5, 11**
 4. Inheritance **Ep 1:11, 14, 18**
 5. Sealed **Ep 1:13**
 6. Salvation **Ep 1:13**
 - b. Paul, in chapter 2, shows “that these blessings were bestowed upon Christians in accordance with an eternal purpose.” (World Video Bible School Notes on Ephesians by Don Walker pg. 13)
 - i. That purpose being to unite Jew & Gentile into one.
 1. **Ep 2:14** “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”
 - c. Paul, in chapter 3, shows how this mystery (unity of Jew & Gentile in Christ) also has an eternal purpose.
 - i. That purpose was that the unified church would make the mystery known to all, from the heavens down.
 1. **Ep 3:10-11** “so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord”
 - d. This brings us to our text today...
4. Paul, from verses 16-19, sets forth what is needed for the church at Ephesus to fulfill the eternal plan of making known to all the mystery.
 - a. The “inner man” of the church would need...

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. The Church Needs Christ Dwelling In Their Hearts

- A. Christ dwells in the heart...through faith
 - 1. Through faith one can have Christ dwell in their hearts.
 - i. That is by knowing Jesus is God the Son.
 - a. **Jn 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (NKJV)
 - ii. That is by obeying Jesus as God the Son.
 - a. **Jn 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
 - iii. Thus obeying all of God’s plan of redemption which culminates in being immersed for the remission of sins.
 - a. **Ro 6:3** “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”
 - b. **Ga 3:27** “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - 2. Without biblical faith one will never have Christ dwell in their hearts.
- B. Christ dwells in the heart...through the Spirit of God
 - 1. Through God’s Spirit one can have strength in the inner man.
 - i. The inner man here is man’s soul.
 - a. The soul of mankind is that which is eternal and will dwell for eternity with God in heaven or with Satan in hell.
 - ii. The strength the soul receives from the Spirit of God is...
 - a. Transformation from the carnal to the spiritual.
 - 1. **Ro 12:2** “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
 - b. The continual renewal day by day.
 - 1. **II Co 4:16** “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”
 - c. The confidence in God’s Word.
 - 1. **Ph 4:13** “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”
- C. Thus...
 - 1. If the church wants the power to fulfill its mission to teach the mystery ie the gospel then it needs Christ dwelling in its heart.

II. The Church Needs To Comprehend The Love Of Christ

- A. The Love of Christ is comprehended in being rooted & grounded in love
 - 1. Rooted in love means to be planted securely in agape.
 - i. One can only begin to lean the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ’s love if they are rooted in Christ love.
 - a. **Co 2:6-7** “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

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2. Grounded in love means to have a firm foundation in agape.
 - i. One can only begin to learn the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love if they are grounded in Christ's love.
 - a. **I Pt 5:10** "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish/ground you." (emphasis mine)
3. Thus to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love one must be firmly planted and have a firm foundation in Christ's love.
 - i. This is not a "casual Christian."
- B. The Love of Christ is comprehended in the breadth, length, height, and depth
 1. Breadth of divine love is...
 - i. That God's love is broader than the human race. No one is exempt from it.
 2. Length of divine love is...
 - i. That God's love is limitless on how far it reaches.
 3. Height of divine love is...
 - i. That God's love elevates the adopted to a position of family member (child of God) and the hope of a heavenly inheritance.
 4. Depth of divine love is...
 - i. That God's love reaches down into the mire of sin to recover the lost.²
- C. Thus...
 1. If the church wants the motivation it needs to fulfill its mission in teaching the mystery then it needs to comprehend the love of Christ.

III. The Church Needs To Be Filled With All The Fullness Of God

- A. The fullness of God is accomplished through being filled by Him
 1. Notice the ASV translation.
 - i. **Ep 3:19** "...that ye may be filled **unto** all the fulness of God." (ASV) (emphasis mine)
 2. The point is that...
 - i. The purpose of the Christian life is to be filled with the fullness of God.
 - ii. This is not the gifts God bestows but rather God Himself.
 - a. **Ep 2:18-22** "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

² Definitions taken from the Truth for Today Commentary on Ephesians & Philippians by Lockheart, Jay & Roper, David pg. 176

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B. Thus...

1. If the church wants to be the example it needs to be to fulfill its mission in teaching the mystery then it needs to be filled with the fullness of God.

CONCLUSION

1. If the church meets these needs it will supply the world with the mystery of the gospel.
 - a. The gift of God has been given to all men everywhere.
 - i. **Ti 2:11** “
 - ii. **Ro 6:23** “
 - b. Let us, the church, be the example of God to all through His power and Christ’s love.
2. Question: Are you as the church fulfilling your mission to teach the gospel to everyone?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**