

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 8/24-8/25 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 3:18-21*

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 ptwente@gmail.com

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Mon pm; 85309150746 Tues am!

Topic: Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZMlCuGuqj8tHNeJYqMIZbE8IKiMqtpYL88G/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGvpj4iHNCRtx-ERpwEGo_4We7wiClago1Ytib0LixpYCauOslLH6NrAOH8

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

One tap mobile +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose); +13462487799,87858644763# US (Houston); Dial by your location - +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kevgG3zBel>

Topic: Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEud-CpqzstHtJOOKSAdUVq16dSqlryu7Iw/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtrTsjG9GVtx2BRpwMA4igXevwmGJagr3szDOMAFXVzXnZ7RGAaNzAsHF>

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

One tap mobile +16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose); +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma); Dial by your location - +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc87AfHHf6>

OPENING PRAYER

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – F. Crosby (3:25)

To God be the glory, great things He has done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 3:18-21

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

Eph 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 3:15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Eph 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the

calling with which you were called,

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

Eph 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

- **These four dimensions remind us** of the vastness in describing the glorious and endless love of Christ to His people.
- **Consider the breadth** of this love?: (*Rev 5:9b, 11b*) *And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, [11] ; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,*
- **One day in glory**, we shall see that perfectly. Looking ahead to glory, seeing the final result of His finished work. Realizing the breadth of His love we will lift up our heads with our hearts singing, recognizing that we will spend eternity in the presence of the Lamb of God, enjoying Him forever!
- The **length** of His love, conveying the endless character of the love of Christ, the ‘everlasting’ love of God—(*Jer 31:3b*) *“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love”!*
- ***Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*** The love of Christ to His own began before time, away back in eternity. It was there before the beginning of time. (*Rev 13:8; 17:8*) *‘written in the Lamb’s book of life from the foundation of the world’*
- **To and through eternity!** How staggering! that I was known by Christ in eternity! He has set His heart upon us, that His affections rested upon us from the beginning of the length of His love towards us. Before time! The love of Christ for His own is from eternity to eternity. (*Heb 13:8*) *‘Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever’*
- The **depth** goes all the way down.... (*Php 2:8*) *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. You can’t go lower than the death of the cross!*
- **In what He did!** He humbled Himself, even to death on the cross for us! That is the measure of the depth of His love. He came from heaven; He

went down to the depths and rose again for such people. We meditate upon these things and realize their truth that we begin to know something about the depth His love, deep enough to reach the worst sinner.

- The **height** of His love. God proposes to raise us, taking us much higher than salvation and forgiveness. That is why we were ‘made alive with Him’, ‘raised with Him’ and are ‘seated in the heavenly places’ with Him.
- Jesus prayed these words, ***(Joh 17:24) "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.***
- **How important it is** to meditate upon, contemplating this love of Christ, realizing its breadth, its length, its depth, its height? Have you realized who and what you are as a Christian? What is the height of His ambition for you?

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- **To know – to experience it!** We are to *know the love of Christ ‘which passes knowledge’*. In many ways a stronger word than ‘comprehend (to grasp)’. It speaks of knowledge by personal experience that Christ loves us; that our Lord is making it plain to us, and telling us, personally, that He loves us with an immeasurable love!
- **Prayer to lay hold** - Paul is praying that the believers, may lay hold of this love of Christ with their minds. ***(Php 1:9-10) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, [10] that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,***
- **Meditate and search the Scriptures** – Our first true response to this love, beginning to lay hold of it with our minds, dwelling and thinking upon these dimensions, searching the Scriptures, and looking at the manifestation of the love of God. As we apply our minds to it we shall find our love to Christ increasing, obtaining a spiritual understanding of the love of Christ!
- **Not just to know about it but by receiving it!** I believe it; I accept it, but there is a sense it is still all outside me. How different that is from Christ Himself telling me that He loves me—We can *‘know’* the love of Christ in

that personal, immediate, direct, experiential sense, over and above the conceptual knowledge!

- **Our Lord's Prayer** - (*John 17:23*) *I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.* As He loved His Son, so He loves us. We are to have that knowledge.

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of

- **Where do we stand** with respect to the Apostle's message? **How do we apply it?** Do we comprehend this *breadth and length and depth and height?* Do we know *'the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge'?*
- **Testing ourselves, consider the closeness to your Savior** as different concentric circles having Christ as their common center. Do you value the presence of your Savior so highly that you cannot bear to be away from Him? You do your work in the light of His countenance, constantly raising your eyes to Him as if fearful of losing one beam of His light.
- **The next circle** is those who are content to live a little further out of His presence, less wholly absorbed, their eyes generally upon their work, but often looking up for the light which they love.
- **Then there is a third circle**, beyond these, engaged in their worldly schemes that they may be seen **standing sideways** to Christ, only now and then turning their faces towards the light.
- **Yet further out**, so distant, some with their backs wholly turned upon the sun, spending but a little time for their Savior. What describes your circle?
- **If you have your back to the sun**, looking at your own shadow, thinking about yourself! Turn around! Look at the sun; then you will begin to forget yourself altogether. There is only one way to lose self! To love Him and be lost in Him! That is the key to the Christian life and Christian experience.
- **KNOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST! - What was it** that made the Lord Jesus Christ do all that He did? It was that He might glorify His Father! (*John 17:4*) *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.* His one motive was to show His love to His Father and the Father's love to Him.
- **The Apostle Peter**, filled with the Holy Spirit, after he had really come to *know the love of Christ*, when the authorities commanded him to stop preaching, said *'We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and*

heard' (*Acts 4:20*). Knowing this *love of Christ*, Peter had to tell all others about it.

- Perhaps the greatest danger confronting the Church today, is that instead of realizing that the supreme need is this knowledge of *the love of Christ*, we spend our energy in organizing activities. But how little happens!
- The man who knows *the love of Christ* in his heart can do more in one hour than the busy type of man can do in a century. God forbid that we should ever make activity an end of itself. Our motive must ever be *the love of Christ!*

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of

- **Seeking to Comprehend – How can we attain to this knowledge?**
We are not to think in mechanical terms - if we do certain things, then, Do “this”, and “that” will result. That supposition is never true in the spiritual life.
- **Preparation - What do we do?** The overriding, over-ruling principle is to seek the Person—not to seek general blessings, but to seek Him, until I can really say, I know Christ Himself.
- **Read the Word of God regularly.** This Word has been given to reveal Him to us. He is to be found everywhere in the Scriptures. Whenever you read the Bible you can find Him if you know how to do so. Pray for the illumination and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Ask yourself, why am I reading? What is my object?
- **Seek Him eagerly!** Go to the Scripture with a spirit of great expectation and in a state of eagerness, asking, Is He going to speak to me personally, as well as indirectly through the Word?
- **Pray!** Talking to God, listening to God, and having communion with God. Realization of the presence of God! You cannot know the love of Christ until you know Christ. Pray with thanksgiving! Before we ask God for any new blessings and benefits, we should be careful to thank Him for what we have already received
- **Importance of preparation!** There is nothing more important in connection with prayer than preliminary meditation, considering what we are going to do and to whom we will be praying to. George Müller of Bristol was known as a great man of prayer. The first thing he always did was to prepare to meet God. He did not present his petitions until he had

realized God's presence. Muller knew God and spoke to God as one who knew Him.

- **Continue in prayer!** We must pray for ourselves without ceasing, as the Apostle prayed for the Ephesians, that God might '*grant us according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man*'. That is an absolute essential.
- **Persevere in prayer!** - **Remember the Lord's teaching** about the persistent widow. The unjust judge, who 'feared neither God nor man', is confronted by a widow woman who keeps on coming with her petition. Finally, the desperate judge grants her request. Perseverance is essential. We are all ready to start, yet all too often to quickly give up! Victory comes through perseverance!
- **Do not live only for the experiences of meetings and on books,** but on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is possible for us so to misuse the means of grace as to live on meetings and books instead of going on to discover the Giver of all grace. How subtle all this is, because we are still not perfect, and because of the wiles of the devil!
- **Please Him in all things.** Our Lord Himself states this quite plainly (*Joh 14:21*) *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*
- **Keep His commandments!** Our Lord tells us to show our love to Him by keeping His commandments. If we really do desire to know Him and His love, then we must do with all our might everything that He has ever told us to do.
- **We are not to grieve Him!** It is so important always to be thinking of Him and reminding ourselves that because we are Christians, we are to avoid doing things which sent Him to the Cross. Avoid them!
- **Illustration** of young man and woman in love with a man having a drinking problem. To marry the woman, he had to totally give up drinking. What did he want more - this girl whom he loved or the drink and drinking companions? After a few years he finally made the hard decision. His love for the girl was so great that he gave up the drink once and for ever. So, he won her. She gave her love and herself to him. What do I have to give up?
- **Give up thing He hates!** There are certain things which the Lord Jesus Christ hates. Each one of us knows the thing, or the things, that are standing between us and Him. Let them go! Strike them out! Give up the things He hates, cost what it may. In His own time, He will smile upon you and manifest Himself and His love to you.

- **Put yourself in the way of a blessing.** We cannot command blessings or ‘claim’ them, as God in His sovereign will and grace dispenses His blessings. But we can do what blind Bartimaeus did. Take up your position along the place, where you will be sure to meet Jesus.
- **Responsiveness to the Lord’s approaches** means that you look for them, that you wait for them, and expect them. **The moment you feel** the slightest drawing or indication of His love, act upon it at once. Do not delay it, do not postpone it. Thank Him for every indication, however faint; run to Him, receive Him, be responsive to Him.

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

- **filled with all the fullness of God - The climax of all prayer** - Let us concentrate our attention on this in order that, under God, we also may become usable, and used of Him in doing something in this world to relieve its pain and its tragedy and its sorrow.
- **Exactly** what is meant? The best understanding may be that you might be filled to, or *with respect to*, all the **fullness of God**, as it is not possible for a human being to contain the whole *fullness of God*.
- **Communicable and incommunicable attributes of God** - Theologians have made a division of the attributes of God into two categories. Those incommunicable to man such as God’s eternity, immutability, omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence, and others, can never be man’s.
- **The communicable attributes on the other hand** can be and in the grace of God, are given to man. One is holiness. God is holy; yet it is He who commands us (*1Pe 1:16*) because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." The same applies to *righteousness, rightness, and justice*. Other communicable attributes of God are *goodness, love, mercy, compassion, loving-kindness, longsuffering, faithfulness*. Paul sums this up by saying; (*Gal 5:22-23*) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law*
- **Beginning to understand** – While we cannot take this phrase in an absolute sense, yet there is a sense in which it must be taken literally. It means not

only the blessings of God but is the communication of something of *the fullness of God* Himself.

- **How does this become ours?** It all happens, in and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as the result of the work which He has done on our behalf. The *fullness* of which Paul speaks becomes ours through the indwelling of Christ in our hearts, and our knowledge of His love. If Christ dwells in my heart by faith, then the *fullness of God* is in me by faith.
- **How does this work out in practice?** Our Lord had taught this truth in the days of His flesh, when he said: (*Joh 15:5*) *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.* Such is the relationship—that of a vine and its branches. This helps us to understand how we can be filled with the *fullness of God*, praying it for ourselves day by day!
- **The *Fullness Experienced* - This *fullness of God* and its power is needed** If we really desire to do things for God, we must first make certain that we are filled with the *fullness of God*, and the power that follows of necessity from that. How the Church today needs this power which alone leads to true practical activity. Illustration of “911” – is that how we view this power today, used in emergency only?
- **But what does this mean** in practice, from the practical standpoint? What is true of a man who knows what it is to be filled with all the *fullness of God*? It means that God dwells in us in such a way as to control us and all our faculties, our life, our thinking, our feelings, and our outward actions. This means that our thinking is dominated by God, and by the mind of God.
- **The Christian’s mind has been ‘transformed’ and has been ‘renewed’** by the Holy Spirit, resulting in the Christian man now being able to think in a spiritual manner, which entirely changes a man’s type, mode, and method of thinking. (*Rom 12:1-2*) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* We ‘have the mind of Christ’ if we are filled with all the *fullness of God*, and if Christ dwells in our hearts by faith!
- **The emotional part of our being**, where feeling dwells, is brought under control by the love of God. Our Lord repeatedly said He had not come into the world to do His own will, but to please and to glorify the Father. (*Joh 17:4*) *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.* When God controls our heart, we have ceased to be

governed by self. When the love of God comes in, the love of self goes out. And when the love of self goes out and the love of God comes in, we begin to love others!

- **Every spiritual aim and instinct are satisfied** when one is filled with all *the fullness of God!* we begin to have a desire which we had never known before to know God, not to know ‘about’ God, but to ‘know’ Him! Like David, (*Psa 42:1-2*) *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. [2] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?*
- **There is the longing for righteousness.** Our Lord has said, (*Mat 5:6*) *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.* The child of God must be hungering and thirsting for, and longing after, righteousness. We have the blessed promise that we shall be filled, that the instinct will be satisfied!
- **We want and need the power of the Holy Spirit** to serve Him and to glorify His Name. Paul in (*Col 1:28-29*) *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. [29] To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.* The Apostle knew what it was to be moved by the thrilling power of God through the Holy Spirit. Do we know anything about this? There is nothing more blessed under heaven!
- **Every sense of want, of emptiness, and of insufficiency, has gone,** when a man is ‘filled with all the *fullness of God*’. Jesus said to the Samaritan Woman at Jacob’s Well, (*Joh 4:13-14*) *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, [14] but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."* How can you thirst if you are filled with all the *fullness of God*?
- **This is Christianity!** To be content with anything less than this is sinful, and dishonoring to the Lord. Do not be content with the mere fact that you believe in Christ, that your sins are forgiven, and that you are a church member. Press on, give yourself neither rest nor peace; offer this prayer for yourself and go on doing so until you know something of this blessed satisfaction and have realized something of this *fullness*.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Eph 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- **This remarkable prayer is ended** with these words! Nothing could be more fitting than this after such a prayer. Indeed, nothing else would be fitting at all.
- **What it is that makes all this possible?** There is only one answer, it is the grace of God.
- **Ending with this doxology** because he could do nothing else but involuntarily, bursting forth into this great hymn of praise worship, and adoration!
- **Do we feel compelled to join him?** Do we feel this almost unrestrainable desire to praise God and to magnify His grace? Have we been moved and thrilled of the tremendous possibilities open to us in this present life?
- **Do you think** the Apostle has said too much? Has he gone too far talking about Christ dwelling in our hearts and our knowing this *love of Christ* and of being filled with all the *fullness of God*? Possible only for very exceptional people –certainly not possible for us?
- **We are in one of these two positions.** If we have caught a glimpse of these things and seen the possibility, we must feel the desire to offer the doxology and to join the Apostle in it.
- **But if we are doubtful and hesitant,** we shall be debating and arguing with ourselves and wondering whether this is not some strange sort of mysticism. The doxology tests us and our profession of the Christian faith.
- **Are you joining in this great doxology?** Having looked at the possibilities that are open for you even now in Christ Jesus, and having offered these petitions for yourself, are you saying? ***‘Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.’***