

# Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Ephesians 3:1-21 (NKJV)

Part 3

Ephesians 3: 14-21 (NKJV)

Finally Paul says, *“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>15</sup> from 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 through His Spirit in the inner man,<sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,<sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—<sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*<sup>20</sup> 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,<sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”* Ephesians 3:14–21 (NKJV)

Paul is not only the Apostle to the Gentiles and, as such, has the privilege of sharing the glorious promises the Gentiles enjoy in Christ, but he himself is a recipient of those blessings as a member of the Church too. As a result, he humbly bows his *“knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”* (vs. 15) This family is not all of God’s creation; it is the family of those who believe, from all of creation, both of the angels and believing man – in heaven and in earth. God is therefore *“Father”* of all the believing.

It has been said that God is the Father of all men, however, there are certain persons and certainly (fallen) angels who would be referred to as *“of their father the devil.”* (Read John 8:12-59, Revelation 12:3-4a, and Jude 6) Therefore, the popular notion that we are all *“children of God”* needs defining.

As members of the family of God, Paul prays that the saints would be, *“according to the riches of [God’s] glory,” “strengthened with might through [God’s] Spirit in the inner man.”* We all desire strength and health in our physical selves; however, it is the inner man that is the primary focus of Paul’s ministry. He told the Corinthians that, *“Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”* 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV) To Timothy he said, *“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”* 1 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)

Our inner man is the real person we are; and it is in our inner man that Christ dwells. He regenerates us from within – by faith and not of works. Our physical bodies will age, break down, and die (unless we are the saints who will experience the Rapture). Our physical bodies will be resurrected and glorified in the future; however, as mentioned, it is the inner man and the work of God within that Paul desires to emphasize. Furthermore, he wants the Ephesians – and all the saints – to enjoy *“being rooted and grounded in love,”* (vs. 17) that we *“may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”* (vss. 18-19)

It is not possible for the believer to know all the Lord has prepared for us this side of eternity. It *“passes [our present] knowledge.”* However, we know there is a day coming when we will know all the fullness Paul refers to. *“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”* 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV) This fact should not steer us away from knowing all God has revealed to us in Scripture.

Inasmuch as we *“see in a mirror, dimly”* and only *“know in part”* the whole of the love of God manifested in Christ Jesus our Lord, we are also short of full comprehension concerning all the Lord has done, is doing, and will do in us. Even our prayers are limited to our understanding, and therefore Paul closes the thought with this glorious benediction: *“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.”* (vss. 20-21)

There is a day coming where all of redeemed creation will declare the glory of the Lord. In Revelation 5 we read,

*“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.*

*Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’*

*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

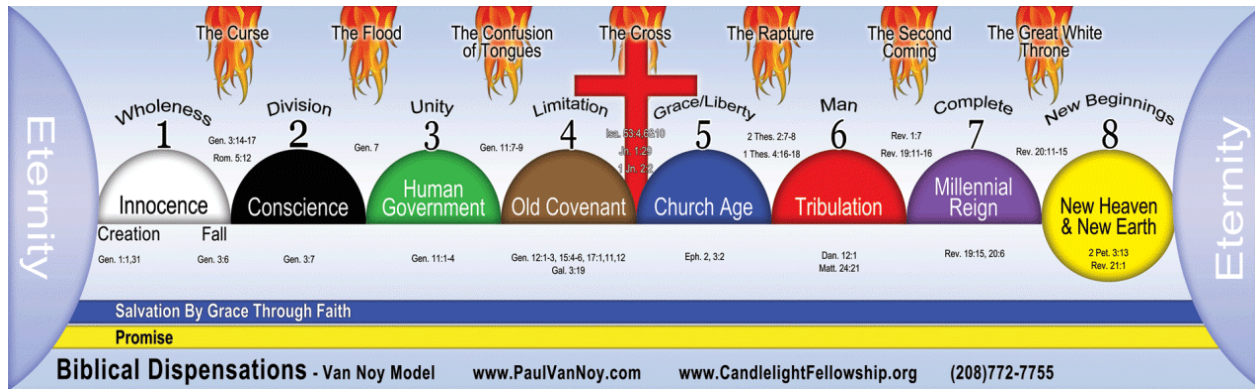
*Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’*

*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’*

*And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’*

*Then the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”* Revelation 5:1-14 (NKJV)

What more can be said. Praise the Lord for His glorious work of grace toward we who believe.



Questions:

- 1) True or False: Paul willingly surrendered Himself to God so that both Jew and Gentile might be made partakers of the blessings of salvation provided in Jesus.
- 2) True or False: The inner strength we have as believers comes from a good strong will.
- 3) The inner strength we have in Jesus is the result of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God at work in us.
- 4) True or False: Christ Jesus dwells in our hearts through faith.
- 5) God wants us to be rooted and grounded in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) True or False: All true believers can fully understand the Fathers love for us in Christ.
- 7) True or False: God will only do for us what we ask and we need to know what we want from Him in order to receive what He gives.