



From Pastor Rey's Desk

Ephesians - A Letter For All the Saints

Ephesians is a circular letter (a written document addressed to a group of people that is usually formal and official) that appears among the 27 documents of The New Testament and was addressed to the Church in Ephesus. It was written by the Apostle Paul and is part of Paul's body of writings that was supposed to be read by all the churches in Asia Minor. Scholars agree that the first manuscripts of this letter had no name attached to them, which makes this letter a very valuable tool for all church history throughout the world. Therefore, this letter is very important from the beginning to the end.

In this brief exegesis or analytical narrative, we will be looking at chapter 3: 18-19 knowing that this document is addressed to "all the saints". Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are called saints in the New Testament. The word "saint" means "*holy one*" and when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we have been set apart to serve the Lord. Therefore, we are called to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. In all of his thirteen letters, Paul addresses his readers as "*saints*" because all of them, as well as you, have been set apart for "*holy living*".

It is clear that in Paul's ministry, he set time aside to pray for all the saints. He says, "*I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints...*" Part of the learning process is understanding the information presented to us. When Paul prayed for all the saints he was speaking of the need for these followers of our Lord Jesus Christ to comprehend and know the reason why God called them to be part of his body, the Church. We find the answers in these two verses that it is crucial to highlight.

First, we need to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ. In order for us to acquire this type of knowledge, we need to spend a great deal of time studying Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is not a set of doctrinal teaching that we learn in Sunday school or in a public institution. You must be self-motivated in studying Christ in depth on your own time to really know and understand Him. What we are going to briefly study here is the love of Christ. Paul says that "*knowing the love of Christ surpasses knowledge*" and not only knowledge, but also you may then be "*filled with all the fullness of God*".

Second, we need to know that the way for the saints to be filled with all the fullness of God is by the comprehension of the four dimensions of Christ's love for humanity. It is a love that covers the whole universe

because it reaches the breadth, length, height, and depth of it. This special love of Christ includes every human being on planet earth. It is an all-encompassing love!

Perhaps, this is the main reason why we can be blind in the matter of comprehending this great love Christ has for all humanity. We are all created equal and in the image of our Creator, so we all need to be trained in the love of Christ for every human being. In God's teaching to us about the love of His son, there is no room for hate or crime. Love is superior to hate. Only love is essential and it needs to be transmitted to new generations in order for us to have a society with less violence and more love.

The way Christ proved his love for us appeared in his incarnation. He became one of us in flesh and blood. He became a human being like all of us so he could understand our struggles in life and our need to be connected with the source of the most powerful energy ever in existence, God.

Third, Christ taught about His love by healing the sick and having compassion for those who were suffering from all types of human diseases. He brought the dead back to life, gave sight to the blind, and he forgave the sins of those brought to him instead of condemning them. Christ also went to the cross and died for the sins of every individual. He paid the penalty for all our sins and transgressions of past, present, and future. On the third day he rose from the dead and sat at the right hand of God Almighty--interceding for all the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.

In Christ's actions and teaching is manifested His love for the entire human race. However, learning and practicing what we have learned are two different things. We know that plenty of people finish a degree in college, but never work in the field they graduated in. The same is true with many of those who call themselves Christians and claim they are practicing Christ's teaching when in reality they are neither talking to anyone about Christ, nor living in faith according to the New Testament. Many people are saying that religion is a "private practice". In other words...keep your religion to yourself in private...or don't talk to me about your religion so we can live in peace. When we follow secular men in their own form of religion, that type of religion is death. Christ is not about a dead religion! Christ is alive and ready to manifest himself in you when you are willing to open your heart and search to know the love Christ has for you and the rest of humanity.

According to Paul, God wants to fill your life with all the fullness of God. Our Creator is available, but we need to comprehend the magnitude of His love. Paul doesn't want only a few selected Christians to know this love; rather, he wants all the saints to know His love and be filled with all the fullness of God. We need to start wrestling with the Word of the Lord like Jacob did when he was wrestling with the angel of the Lord for God's blessings on him. (Genesis 32: 24-28). We need to start wrestling with the Word of the Lord until we comprehend Christ's love for us and for the rest of humanity. By knowing and practicing His love...then, and only then...everyone who professes Christ can be filled with all the fullness of God. Paul is right on that because the power and love of God is manifested in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. God wants to release to His children the power that only he can invest in them with power from above.

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