



*Love*

BEFORE

*Labor*

WHY WE SERVE FROM GRACE, NOT FOR IT

For this reason, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...

Call to the Word  
Eph 3:14-19

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 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.

Call to the Word  
Eph 3:14-19

**What if you discovered that something incredibly valuable  
already belonged to you... but you had been living your  
whole life without realizing it?**



Welcome to the State of Arizona's  
Unclaimed Property Page

Total value of unclaimed property due to owners is

**\$2,796,946,197**

Introduction

“For this reason..”

**“made both one and broken down the middle wall of separation.” (Eph 2:14-16)**

God is creating one new humanity in Christ.

Act 15:5-9

Eph 3:1-7

“For this reason, I bow my knees...” (v.14)

When theology is rightly understood, it always bends the heart toward worship. The deeper the revelation, the deeper the reverence.

Eph 3:1-7

What about when the wonder fades?

*“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.”*

*Ps 51:12*

**“The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied.” (Edwards)**

Eph 3:1-7

“... prisoner of Christ Jesus for your Gentiles”

*Lit: “the prisoner I am... of Jesus Christ”*

That’s theology in chains.

Rome may hold the chains, but Christ holds the purpose.

Eph 3:1-7

**“... for you gentiles...”**

**He was preaching that through Jesus Christ, Gentiles could come directly to God without first becoming Jews.**

**Paul's Chains were fulfilling God's Purpose**

**Phil 1:12-13**

**Eph 3:1-7**

If you see yourself as a prisoner of circumstances, bitterness grows.  
But if you see yourself as a prisoner of Christ, purpose grows.

*Two men can sit in the same prison cell.  
One counts the bars; the other sees the mission.*

**Circumstances are a location, not a lord.  
You may be in them, but you don't have to live under them.**

Eph 3:1-7

The riches of Christ are everything God gives us because we belong to Jesus—

... forgiveness, adoption, access to the Father, the indwelling Spirit, a new family, a new identity, and an eternal inheritance.

The Christian life is not discovering new treasures— it is discovering the endless treasure we already have in Christ.

Eph 3:8



Eph 3:9-10

**the church is like a masterpiece hanging in heaven's gallery.**

1Pe 1:8-12

**Angels know God as Creator and Judge.**

**Believers know Him as Father and Redeemer.**

**Hebrews 2:16** — *“He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.”*

Eph 3:9-10

Paul's logic is:  
My suffering is not meaningless.  
It is part of God's plan.  
And you are part of the result.

God often writes someone's glory through someone else's suffering.

Eph 3:13

**Paul is not praying for easier circumstances.  
He is praying for stronger Christians.**

**2Co 4:16 Though the outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”**

**God’s answer to pressure is often not a lighter load, but a stronger soul.**

**Eph 3:14-16**

Paul is praying that Christ “**fully rule and settle comfortably there...to settle in fully and comfortably...that Christ may feel at home in your hearts.**”

**Salvation means Christ lives in your heart.**

**Maturity means He feels at home there.**

Eph 3:17

**“...being rooted and grounded in love.”**

**A deeply settled, stable experience of Christ’s love that nourishes and stabilizes their spiritual life.**

**When a believer is rooted in Christ’s love, storms may shake them — but they cannot uproot them. The deeper the roots in Christ’s love, the stronger the life above the ground.**

**Eph 3:17**

**“...comprehend... to know...”**

**Christ’s love is so vast that it cannot be fully grasped by the human mind. You can experience it, but you can never exhaust it.**

**“...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”**

**Paul is praying that the life of God would so fill us that it spills out into everything we are so our lives increasingly reflect the very character of God**

**Eph 3:18-19**

**When Christ's love fills the heart, God's life fills the person.**

His love fills our hearts.

His truth fills our minds.

His grace fills our relationships.

Eph 3:18-19

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.

Eph 3:20-21

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