

## CHAPTER 3

### *What's Your Cause? (vs. 1)*

- ❖ Note that Paul who is technically in Roman custody calls himself a prisoner of Jesus Christ
  - *"In the day he was free to move around the house with the supervision of soldiers, but every night he was chained to a soldier to make sure he did not escape before his trial before Caesar."* – David Guzik
  - Eph. 3:1, 4:1; Phil. 1:7, 13-16
  - No matter where we find ourselves, it should all be for Christ
  - When we know the cause, it brings purpose and clarity - 1 Sam. 17:28-30; Phil. 1:20-21

### *The Dispensation of Grace*

- ❖ Dispensation: administration, stewardship
- ❖ Paul was given the stewardship of ministering to the Gentiles – Act 9:15
- ❖ Vs. 3: God revealed unto Paul his assignment as he revealed what had been a mystery
  - Mystery: mustērion: hidden purpose, counsel or will hidden from the ungodly and wicked but plain to the godly (Thayer's Dictionary)
  - Read 1 Cor. 2:14; Acts 22:17-21; Rom. 11:25; 16:25; Eph 3:4,9
  - Now the Gentiles would be included what is now known as the Christian Church, the Body of Christ – Eph. 2:11-22
- ❖ Vs. 5: Revelation to the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit – Col. 1:26
  - This refers to NT apostles and prophets
- ❖ The Revelation: the inclusion of the Gentiles – Gal. 3:28-29
  - Fellow heirs – Rom. 8:16-17;
  - Same body – Rom. 8:17; Eph. 4:4, 16, 25
  - Partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel – Eph. 2:12-13

### *Called According to the Gift of Grace*

- ❖ Vs. 7: Paul says was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God – 1 Cor. 15:9-11  
Rom. 15:14-16
  - God did a work in Paul in order to do a work through Paul – Rom. 15:18 (MSG)

**➔ ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC MISTAKES YOU AND I CAN MAKE IS TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE WHO WE ARE OUTSIDE OF THE GRACE OF GOD**



**Chapter 3 (continued)**

*Prayer for Spiritual Strength (vs. 14-21)*

- ❖ Vs. 14: For this cause
- ❖ Vs. 14: I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ –
  - Paul's posture of humility while praying – 1 Kings 8:54; Ezra 9:5; Psa. 95:6
  - We are to pray to the Father through the Son – Mat. 6:6-9; John 16:23-24
- ❖ Vs. 16: He would grant you
  - According to the riches of His glory – Phil. 4:19
  - To be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man – Col. 1:11-12; Rom. 7:22; 2 Cor. 4:16
- ❖ Vs. 17: That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith – John 14:23; 1 John 4:7; Rev. 3:20
  - Are you rooted and grounded in love? Col. 1:23; Eph. 2:4; 1 Cor. 13:1-13
- ❖ Vs. 18: If you only knew: Eph. 1:18; Lam. 3:22-23
  - With all saints
  - The breadth, length and depth and height – Rom. 8:35-39
    - Width – John 3:16
    - Length – Jer. 31:3; Psa. 103:12
    - Depth – Phil. 2:7-8
    - Height – Eph. 2:6
- ❖ Vs. 19: And to know the love of Christ – Psa. 86:5, 15;
  - How can you be filled with all the fullness without knowing Christ's Love? – Eph. 1:23; 1 John 3:14; 1 John 4:7-20
- ❖ Vs. 20: The Doxology:
  - Now unto Him that is able – Rom. 16:25; Isa. 59:1; Psalm 147:4-5; 1 Cor. 4:20; 2 Tim. 1:7
  - Able to do exceeding abundantly – 1 Tim. 1:14; Isa. 55:7; John 10:10
  - According to the power – Eph. 3:7; Eph. 1:19; Col. 1:29
  - ...power that worketh in us – Rom. 8:5-14
- ❖ Vs. 21: Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout ages...Rom. 11:36