

FILLED WITH HIS FULLNESS

MMT 8/30/26

TEXT: Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

When Leonardo DaVinci was forty-three years old, the Duke of Milan asked him to paint the dramatic scene of Jesus' last supper with His disciples. Working very slowly and meticulously, DaVinci spent three years on the assignment. He grouped the disciples into threes, two groups on either side of Christ. In his right hand, He holds a cup, beautifully painted with marvelous realism.

When finished, DaVinci asked a friend to observe it and give his opinion of it. The friend said, "It's wonderful, that cup is so real, that I can't take my eyes off of it." Immediately, DaVinci took a brush and drew it across the sparkling cup. He exclaimed as he did it,

"Nothing shall distract from the figure of Christ!"

In much the same way, the Apostle Paul, points our attention to Christ. We see him in prayer and petition for the people at Ephesus, and in v. 19 he expresses himself in a beautiful manner, thus wanting us to be **FILLED WITH HIS FULLNESS**

I. DESIRE FOR US TO KNOW HIS FULLNESS

(v. 19a And to know the love of Christ,)

We see that Paul expresses his desire for the Ephesians, as well as us that are saved to know some things. And we see the:

A. MYSTERY DESCRIBED ". . .to know the love of Christ.."

a. He has expressed his own personal desire to **"know Him and the power of his resurrection"(Phil. 3:10)**

Know the Unknowable, Seize the Unseizable, and Grasp the Ungraspable.

Notice, we see the:

a. OCCUPATION ". . .to know. . ."

KNOW(lit.): "to feel, or experience"

IDEA: of apprehending, or laying hold of something

c.f. **John 8:32 Ye shall know(experience) the truth. . ."**

1. He's not suggesting just a knowledge of it, but an experience of it.

2. His concern is not that we just know about it, but that we may lay hold of it, experience it, and make it our own.

ILLUST:

It is one thing to read about something, talk about something, be told about something, or speculate about something. It is altogether to KNOW ABOUT SOMETHING!!

b. OBJECT ". . .the love of Christ. . ."

1. What a subject to describe. What a topic to discuss.
2. If we're saved we can say that we know, and have experienced the love of Christ.
3. Yet he uncovers an area here that all we can do is just skim the surface.

"It's the FINITE, dealing with the INFINITE!!"

The songwriter wrote: "O, love of God how rich and pure, how measureless and strong; it shall forevermore endure the saints and angels song."

A. MYSTREY DESCRIBED

B. MEASURE DEFINED "..which passeth knowledge.."

PASSETH KNOWLEDGE(lit.): "is better than, greater than, goes beyond"

1. He has expressed his desire for us to know this love.
2. Now, he informs us that this love passeth knowledge.

Is he contradicting himself?

IT IS A PARADOX!!!

PARADOX: "something that is not what it appears to be"

3. He's simply saying that there are dimensions which cannot be measured, and principles which cannot be manifested.

ILLUST:

Just as the ocean cannot be fully seen by looking upon it.

4. So it is with the love of Christ---we cannot fully know it!!

"While we are RECIPIENTS of it, we cannot REASON all of it!"

5. This is parallel to the "**unsearchable riches of Christ.**"(EPH.3:8)

WE CAN EXPERIENCE IT, BUT WE CANNOT EXPLAIN IT!

ILLUST:

A class of little girls were learning to spell. They had already spelled out little words such as "pig, cat, dog, cow" A Little girl was asked to spell "LOVE".

She didn't stop to give the letters, she simply ran to the teacher threw her arms around her neck, and kissed her on the cheek. She said, "That's how we spell it at our house!"

6. Praise God, one day Christ spelled love by placing his arms around our doomed soul, and kissing us with the Kiss of Redemption!

I. DESIRE FOR US TO KNOW HIS FULLNESS
II. DEMAND FOR US TO SHOW HIS FULLNESS

(v.19b that ye might be filled)

NOTE: WE CANNOT SHOW IT, UNLESS WE KNOW IT!!

"Love is not a Root, Love is a Fruit!"

ILLUST:

The Lord Jesus' loved us to the point of acting upon His love.

c.f. John 3:16; Romans 5:8

So it is with us, we can never just KNOW this love. We must SHOW this love.

Notice, Paul spells out the:

A. ACTION INVOLVED ". . .filled. . ."

"to totally consume"

IDEA: of filling a hollow vessel to the point of overflowing.

SAME WORD **Eph. 5:18** "Be, being, constantly filled with the Spirit"

1. We are to be consumed, so that we may be controlled.
2. When we're under His control, we'll display the right product.

A. ACTION INVOLVED

B. ATTRIBUTE INCLUDED **"..with all the fulness.."**

"flooded with" SAME WORD **Col. 2:9:**

"Inhim..dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily"

We are to be consumed, filled, flooded with not just bits and pieces, but ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD!!

We're to be filled with His: person, presence, power.

THE MEANS: HOLY SPIRIT

THE MEASURE: GOD HIMSELF

"Filled with Him:

POSITIONALLY----we're filled

PRACTICALLY-----we're to be filled

I. DESIRE FOR US TO KNOW HIS FULLNESS

II.DEMAND FOR US TO SHOW HIS FULLNESS

III.DELIGHT TO GO IN HIS FULLNESS

If I go in his fullness then

A. I RESUSE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MY LOT

B. I REFUSE TO CRITICIZE MY LEADERS

SO LETS BE FILLED WITH HIS FULLNESS