

“Glory in the Church!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Loren & Jeanna Combs** – baby boy *Caedmon William*, on Sunday, 9lbs.
- 1.2. **Iloilo church** – Prayer for church building situation. [\$140,000]
 - 1.2.1. Owner selling: If move, difficult for those using public trans.
- 1.3. **Before Prayer: A Christian is odd...** He feels supreme love for One who he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest; richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge. A.W.Tozer
- 1.4. **Last week:** Paul unveiled **the mystery** of old, the new society, the combo of Jew & Gentile into one, a.k.a. **the Church**.
 - 1.4.1. **This week:** Paul will explain **his unique role** in it.

2. EXPLANATION! (1-13)

- 2.1. **MYSTERY REVEALED!** (1-7)
- 2.2. Ever get interrupted in your prayers...Paul does here (**see** vs.1 & 14)
 - 2.2.1. **Deviates on the subject of the divine mystery.**
- 2.3. **Mystery?** - Lucy asked Charlie Brown, "Life is a **mystery** Charlie Brown -- do you know the answer?" Charlie Brown answered, "Be kind. Don't smoke. Be prompt. Smile a lot. Eat sensibly. Avoid cavities and mark your ballot carefully. Avoid too much sun. Send overseas packages early. Love all creatures above and below. Insure your belongings, and try to keep the ball low...." Before he can get out another platitude, Lucy interrupts: "Hold real still," she says, "because I am going to hit you a very sharp blow upon the nose!"
- 2.4. **The Mystery** – sacred secret, truth revealed. (not knowledge withheld)
 - 2.4.1. The Believing Jews & Gentiles are **one & share the same spiritual riches**.
 - 2.4.2. Jesus said, "**I will build My church**" (Mt.16:18) but he uses **people** to help get the job done.
 - 2.4.3. **The building of the church** should be our motivation to **pray & serve**
- 2.5. (6) **Mystery summed up!** - No one could have foreseen the inclusion of the Gentiles, but here it is **plainly revealed** via Paul. (*cats out of the bag*)

- 2.6. The content of the mystery is **Christ!**
- 2.6.1. **Christ for us** in giving His life on our behalf.
- 2.6.2. **Christ in us** accomplishing His purpose by working in each member of His body.
- 2.7. **MYSTERY'S PURPOSE!** (8-13)
- 2.8. (8) **Unsearchable riches** – they far surpass our human ability to understand.
- 2.8.1. Paul used same word in Rom.11:33 “**Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways **past finding out!**”**
- 2.8.2. **God's riches** are **so vast** no one can plumb their depths.
- 2.9. (9) **From the beginning of the ages** – Paul traced this mystery all the way back to **creation!**
- 2.10. **Paul's purpose:** To preach(8) & make plain(9).
- 2.11. (10) **Manifold wisdom** – compound word (*many & many sided*)
- 2.11.1. **Or**, “*very many-sided*”; “*very many-faceted*”; “*very many-colored*”.
- 2.11.2. (William Barclay) “The idea in this word is that **the grace of God will match any situation** which life may bring us. There is nothing of **light** or of **dark**, of **sunshine** or of **shadow**, for which it is not **triumphantly adequate.**”
- 2.12. (12) God's plan was more than a **successful operation**. It became a **personal experience**. [**in Christ we have a free approach to God - access**]
- 2.12.1. **Boldness, access, & confidence** to come to God in **faith**.
- 2.12.2. C.H. Spurgeon once said, “**Prayer** pulls the rope down below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some **scarcely stir** the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give only an **occasional jerk** at the rope. But he who communicates with heaven is the man who **grasps the rope boldly** and **pulls continuously** with ***all his might***.”

3. **SUPPLICATION! (14-21)**

- 3.1. **PRAYER FOR 5 THINGS!** (14-19)
- 3.2. Finally back to the prayer – let me start over!...**For this reason...**
- 3.2.1. This prayer is for **spiritual vision**, to **see & lay hold** of the greatness of **God's love & power**.
- 3.3. (16) **Riches of His glory** (or *glorious riches*) - From such **vast resources** God can supply **all the needs of His people**.¹

¹ Shepherd's Notes; pg.39

- 3.4. Now he lists **the resources** which His people may draw upon in prayer. (5)
- 3.5. [1] **Power** (16) of the H.S. - Inner strength.
- 3.5.1. The **inner man** is the center of a person's life.
- 3.5.2. This is where we get our real strength!
- 3.5.3. This strength comes **from God**, who is **present & active** in the believer's life. His power works **in & through** us.
- 3.5.4. **A story** is told of a **Welsh woman** who lived in a remote valley in **Wales**. She went to a great deal of trouble to have **electrical power** installed in her home. They noticed she didn't use very much electricity at all. In fact, her usage was minuscule. They sent a meter reader out to check on the matter. The man came to the door and said, "We've looked at the amount. Don't you use electricity?" "Oh yes" she said. "We **turn it on** every night to see how to light our lamps and then we **switch it off again**."
- 3.5.4.1. This sounds like the way many Christians apply the power of God in their lives! {turn it on, switch it off again}
- 3.6. [2] **Presence** (17a) of **Christ Himself in us**.
- 3.7. [3] **Love** (17b) – a new orientation toward others.
- 3.7.1. With a new **inner strength** & the **presence of Christ** dwelling within, the believer has a **new orientation** toward others.
- 3.7.2. **Love** is the foundation of the believer's life.
- 3.8. [4] **Comprehension** (18,19a) of **Christ's love**.
- 3.8.1. Comprehend the dimensions of Christ's love.
- 3.8.2. Paul wants us to grasp the **full dimension** of **Gods Word**.
- 3.8.3. **Passes knowledge** – compound word. "*beyond*" & "*to throw*"
- 3.8.3.1. "*To throw over & beyond*" – not hitting the baseball over the fence, but knocking it deep into the stands!
- 3.9. [5] **Fullness** (19b) of **God**. Here is God's ultimate purpose for the lives of His people. [Oh to experience **the fullness of God**]
- 3.10. **GLORY IN THE CHURCH!** (20,21)
- 3.11. A stirring benediction!
- 3.12. (20) **Exceedingly abundantly** – compound word made up of **3 words** to show the **highest form of comparison** imaginable.
- 3.12.1. Paul connected: "*above, out of, exceedingly*" to form this word.
- 3.12.2. It means "**exceedingly abundantly, superabundantly**" quite beyond all measure. {it goes beyond the expression of language}
- 3.12.3. **God's power** at work **within us** is able to **carry out His work** more abundantly, than we can even imagine.
- 3.12.4. Behind right field of San Francisco's **ATT Stadium** is **McCovey Cove**, where fans sit in their boats & kayaks, waiting for a "**splash ball**"!
- 3.12.4.1. So, this isn't hitting the baseball **over the fence**; nor **deep into the stands**; but knocking an **out of the park** "**splash ball**"!

- 3.13. God gives us **more than** we ask:²
- 3.13.1. **Abraham** – says, “I can’t expect Sarah to bear a child in her old age. God promised a seed. It must be in this child of Hagar.” - “**Oh that Ishmael might live before You!**”
- 3.13.1.1. God granted him that, **but He gave him Isaac as well, & all the blessings** of the covenant.
- 3.13.2. **Jacob** – Asked the Lord for **bread** to eat & **clothes** to wear.
- 3.13.2.1. **But what did God give him?** When he came back from Bethel God gave him, 2 large bands/groups, 1000’s of sheep & camels, & much wealth.
- 3.13.3. **David** – Ps.21:4 “**He**(speaking of himself) **asked life from You**(God), **& You gave him length of days forever & ever.**”
- 3.13.3.1. God gave him more than length of days **himself**, **but a throne** for his sons throughout all generations.
- 3.13.4. **Man w/Palsy** – Friends brought him to Jesus & asked for a **healing**. He said, “**Son...your sins are forgiven.**” But they didn’t ask for that!
- 3.13.4.1. **No**, but God gives **greater things** than we ask for.
- 3.13.5. **Dying thief** – his humble prayer, “**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**”
- 3.13.5.1. Jesus’ reply, “**Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise**”. He had not dreamed of such an honor! 😊
- 3.13.6. **The Prodigal** – “**I’m not worthy** to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants.”
- 3.13.6.1. **What was the answer?** “bring forth the **best robe** & put it on him; put a **ring** on his hand, & **sandals** on his feet”.
- 3.13.7. “Once you get into the position of **an asker**, you shall have **what you never asked for, & never thought to receive!**” (Spurgeon)
- 3.14. **Ask**
 All that we ask
 Above all that we ask or think
 Abundantly above all that we ask or think
 Exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think
 Able to exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.
- 3.15. (21) God is glorified in: the **whole building**(temple 2:21); the **whole family**(3:15); the **whole body** (4:16); & the **all the saints** (18).

Christianity made people who were things into real men and women, more, into sons and daughters of God; it gave those who had no respect, their self-respect; it gave those who had no life, life eternal; it told men that, even if they did not matter to other men, they still mattered intensely to God. It told men who, in the eyes of the world were worthless, that, in the eyes of God they were worth the death of his only Son. Christianity was, and still is, the most uplifting thing in the whole universe.

² Adapted from Spurgeon At His Best; #2144