

Sermon Outline

HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND DEEP | Geoff Lin

Bible reading: Ephesians 3:1-21 (Page 1666)

The Ephesians memory verse challenge so far ...

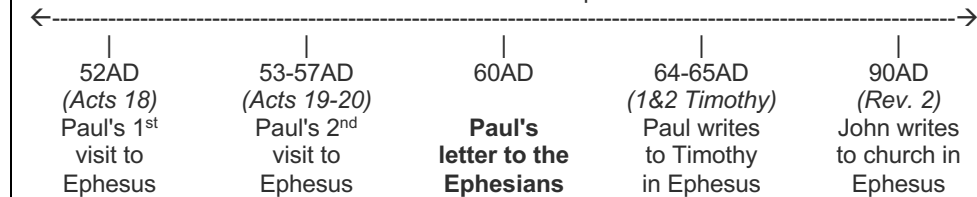
1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2:19-20 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Q. When did Paul write Ephesians?



1. Paul's situation (vv1-13)

- i. "Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of your Gentiles ..." (v1)
- ii. "This is the mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" (vv2-6)
- iii. "to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery ..." (vv7-13)

Next week: The God who predestined us ...

Acts 28:30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

2. Praying with Paul (vv14-19)

Prayer #1: for power so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith (vv16-17a)

Prayer #2: for power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (vv17b-19)

""To be filled to all the fullness of God" is simply a Pauline way of saying "to be all that God wants you to be" or "to be spiritually mature" (Don Carson, *Praying with Paul* (2015))

This week's memory verse: Ephesians 3:17b-19

Some brief reflections on "the love of Christ"

- i. Knowing the love that surpasses knowledge
- ii. Past, present, and future
- iii. The love of Christ for "us"

"It takes the whole people of God to know the whole love of God" (John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians* (1979))

For discussion: how does Christ's love intrigue and charm you?

3. To God be the glory ... (vv20-21)