

# Knowing *Christ*

Lessons from Paul's  
Life and Ministry

Living in Christ  
Ephesians 3:1-21  
Lesson 10



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking for clues to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure laying just under the surface. First, read the whole passage in context. Pay attention to the paragraph breaks to gain the whole thought, as it relates to the whole text. Are there words that lead you to look before or after the passage to gain the full context? There is a saying, "Whenever you see the word 'therefore' look to see what it is there... for." The word "and" tells us that something else goes with it, maybe to show contrast, or similarities, or even a series. Repeated words or phrases, help us discover the main thought of the author. The text will speak for itself, be careful not to read in your own assumptions. The bible interprets itself, so if you ask a question of it, the answer will be found within the pages of scripture.

**Pray** and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight words or thoughts to you as you begin to carefully read the text over several times. Reading it in different translations helps you gain more insight. Use the text provided in the lesson as a worksheet. **Mark the text** in whatever way that helps you the most. Colored pencils are helpful, looking up words in dictionaries, or cross-references help you gain further insight and fill in the details. Read thoughtfully and prayerfully and see what the Lord wants to show you. Each week will be an exciting journey as you place your feet in the imprints that Paul left us on his journey to *knowing Christ* more intimately.

## *Lesson Text*

### **Eph 3:1-7**

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles — 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

### **Eph 3:8-13**

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

### **Eph 3:14-21**

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and

grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**20** 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, **21** to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



## Looking for Gold - *What does it say?*

Like a miner looking for a gold vein, read the section and record what you see. Keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage by **marking your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts, similarities. Look for answers to questions that answer, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Briefly

describe, in your own words the clues you find. Do your best to follow the authors train of thought as to what he is trying to say?

### **Read Eph 3:1-21**

Record what stands out to you as you read

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## Digging Deeper

Use this section to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind as you look for correlating evidence in other parts of scripture through cross-references. Dig deeper into the meaning of words that stick out to you or are repeated. Background information in encyclopedias or dictionaries or handbooks bring the passage alive. Keep your eyes open to find any commands to obey, or questions to be answered etc.

**Challenge:** Use your cross-references, word-studies or encyclopedias to fill in the details and dig deeper into the meaning of the passage. Record what you find.

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***Boiling it Down - What does it mean?***

Now is the time to boil down what you have found. What lessons can you draw from what you have seen. There may be multiple lessons, **state each in a simple sentence.**

What LESSONS can I draw from my observations?

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***Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?***

What steps do I need to take to APPLY each lesson? Your applications should suggest a course of action. **Record an application for each lesson.**

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**Challenge:** Use your cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up your lessons.

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## Storing up Your Treasure . . .

**Checking for Clarity:** See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** in one or two words. This helps you fully understand what author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch his vision?

Eph 3:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph 2:8-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph 2:14-21 \_\_\_\_\_

**Bars of Gold:** Try to state the main content of the passage in the form of a title.

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**Flex Your Muscles:** Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

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## **Hide Your Treasure in your Heart:**

Eph 3:20-21 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. NKJV



### **Radiating His Truth . . .**

God can exceed your wildest dreams—if you stop trying to manipulate, scheme, and bring it to pass in your own strength. Allow Him to live in you and through you, and the wildly unthinkable will become commonplace in your life... - Ray Stedman



