

/Hello./ We will now begin with the fourth lecture on the prison epistles.

/Today's Word is Ephesians chapter 3./ The title of this chapter is "Revelation."/ First, the gospel given through revelation. /Verses 1-6./ Second, spreading the gospel with power. Verses 7-13.

/Third, a prayer for inner being's maturity. Verses 14-19./ Fourth, the God who gives abundantly. Verses 20-21.

/First, the gospel given through revelation. Verses 1-6.

/Read verse 1./ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--

/Through this letter, we can see that Paul is imprisoned./ It says that he is the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of Gentiles./ He was imprisoned while sharing the gospel to the Gentiles.

/He states the reason for why he has been imprisoned./ This is an exhortation of the apostle Paul to the Gentiles in hopes that they would acknowledge that he has labored to share the gospel to them, and that they would humbly accept his encouragement.

/Therefore, if the Gentiles realized that the apostle Paul suffered and was imprisoned for them, they would respect and obey his words.

/In this way, whoever ignores and disrespects pastors cannot learn from or be encouraged by them.

/When the believers in Ephesus were to learn that Paul endured troubles and sufferings for them, they then would accept his encouraging words./ It is very important that we respect and obey our pastors.

/If children overhear their parents slander pastors,/ the children will not receive grace and blessings from the pastor./ Let us say that a group of parents sat around to talk.

/They proceeded to say, "Our pastor is wrong in the way he does this." / It is possible that they discussed one or two mistakes from among the many other good deeds of the pastor because this pastor is one they served.

/However, when their children hear this, they will interpret it as, "Our pastor is wrong in all his ways."/ Because those parents spoke misleading words, their children could refuse to listen to and disobey the pastor's teachings.

/Therefore, we must teach and show children how to respect and obey pastors./ Moses climbed up a mountain and prayed during the war with Amalekites.

/At that time, when Moses raised his hands to pray, the Israelites were winning the war./ However, because Moses was human, his hands became tired and he put them down./ When he put his hands down, the Israelites began to lose to the Amalekites.

/At that time, Aaron and Hur brought a rock and had Moses sit on it. / Aaron and Hur held both of Moses' hands at his sides, thus, Moses' hands of prayer did not come down, and the Israelites won in the war against the Amalekites.

/After this event, Aaron and Hur and their descendants were greatly blessed./ Aaron was Moses' brother./ Hur was the husband of Miriam, Moses' sister.

/Aaron and Hur acknowledged Moses as the servant of God, and they held his hands, which led to victory in the war against the Amalekites./ They were blessed, and their descendants were blessed as well.

/In this way, pastors must properly teach the truth, and we must know that they work hard to serve the believers. /We and our children will be blessed when we respect and obey pastors.

/Verse 2./ Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,

/Here, "you" refers to the believers in Ephesus./ It says that the administration of God's grace for the Gentiles are from Paul.

/It says, "the administration of God's grace." /This refers to the salvation of Gentiles by faith./ The word "administration" in this verse refers to God's plan or providence.

/God gave the administration of grace to Paul, and he explains the administration in the next verse.

/Verse 3./ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

/The mystery that God made known to Paul by revelation was that the Gentiles would be saved and be children of God by believing in the gospel.

/“Revelation” means to open and show. It means to make known who God is and his will.

/Here, “mystery” refers to the gospel./ Especially in this text, it specifically refers to the Gentiles' salvation through their faith in the gospel.

/Verse 4./ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

/This mystery of Christ, the gospel, is that “Gentiles can also be saved by faith” has been made known to Paul and it will be understood by Gentiles.

/In verse 5 it says, “it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets,” which refers to the Word of God. /The Word of God, the special revelation, has been completely revealed to the apostles and prophets through the Holy Spirit.

/The special revelation ended after the apostolic era./ Now, because the special revelation has ended, we can only know God and his will through the Bible.

/It says in verse 5, “which was not made known to men in other generations.”

/Here, “other generations” refer to the Old Testament period./ During this period, the mystery of the gospel of God had not been entirely revealed./ After the apostolic era, the special revelation, God’s Word, came to an end.

/Here, “men” refer to humans./ Thus, the mystery of God was not completely revealed in the Old Testament period.

/Also, because the special revelation ended at the apostolic era, there can be no words other than the Bible.

/Verse 6. /This 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.

/This verse is a detailed explanation of the mystery that is previously mentioned. / Therefore, whether one is a Jew or a Gentile, if he believes in the same gospel and in Jesus Christ, he becomes a successor and a member, and he then participates in the promise.

/It tells us that Gentiles can become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ./ Jews and Gentiles have become one unit and one body in Jesus Christ.

/It also says, “sharers together in the promise,” and this means to participate in the promise of salvation.

/Now, we will look at the second point./ Spreading the gospel with power. Verses 7-13.

/Verse 7. /I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

/The previous verse testified that the mystery of the gospel has been spread to the Gentiles./ In verse 7, it speaks about a servant in regards to this work./ It says that Paul became a servant for the gospel, by the gift of God’s grace given to him.

/A servant of the gospel refers to an evangelist or a pastor. /This text speaks about Paul becoming a servant. / First, it was done by the power of God that worked in him.

/Second, it was by the gift of God's grace. / Paul became a servant of God due firstly by the

power of God that worked in him, and secondly, by the gift of God's grace.

/God gives everyone spiritual gifts so that they would accomplish their works. / God chooses people to become servants./ Then, God gives them spiritual gifts so that they would carry out their work.

/God's power works in them./ Paul did not work with his own power and strength, but he worked according to the work of power that God gave him.

/Because God works authoritatively, Paul had no choice but to preach the gospel./ He obeyed God's command because he feared that God's wrath would be on him if he didn't.

/The same goes for us. / If we preach the gospel with the power of God working within us, then things will go well when we preach the gospel. / Even if we preach the gospel in a place that is like a wasteland, there will be great works in that area when we are strengthened by the power of God and preach the gospel.

/We do not do God's work with our own strength but with the power given by God./ We work with his power./ God gives us spiritual gifts with his power, and he gives us power to carry out the works.

/Therefore, we must not make excuses and say, "We cannot speak" or "We cannot do it." / We simply have to obey God because he gives us spiritual gifts and strength when he calls us to accomplish something.

/When we obey, God will work in us and bring out amazing results. / We must preach the gospel with power given to us by God.

/ Verse 8. /Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

/Paul was humble when he said, "I am less than the least of all God's people." /God used Paul until the end because he was this humble.

/God refuses the arrogant and gives grace to the humble. / In this way, Paul was always humble and the grace of God was always with him.

/Paul always remembered that he persecuted the church,/ interfered with and beat believers,/ and he said, "I am less than the least of all God's people." /1 Corinthians 15:9. / In 1 Timothy 1:15, he said "sinners--of whom I am the worst."

/Because God always gives grace to humble people like Paul, they can continue to do the works of God./ We must know that God will refuse us when we are arrogant, and we must always remain in a humble place.

/It says, "this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of

Christ.” /He preached the unsearchable riches of Christ and His love to the Gentiles.

/Therefore, we must recognize the unsearchable grace and love of the Lord that we have received, and we must be thankful for it.

/Verse 9./ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

/It says, “and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.”

/As we have studied, “administration of this mystery” is a plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles through Jesus Christ. / This has existed even before eternity.

/This was all God’s plan. /It says that it was kept hidden in God, who created all things./ God planned to save the chosen believers during creation, and now God fulfilled his redemption.

/God’s plan to save the chosen believers and Christ’s redemption from the time of creation / was all revealed /through the redemption of Jesus Christ.

/Verse 10. /His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

/It says, “to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” / It indicates the good angels in heaven. /Also, it says that “the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.” / This refers to the gospel.

/Believers received salvation, training, and became like God in his image through Christ’s redemption. /The angels were amazed by this.

/Believers’ salvation, training, and becoming children of God through the blood of Jesus Christ /is something that angels are envious and amazed at. /It is amazing for both Jews and Gentiles to be saved in Jesus Christ.

/Verse 11. /according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

/This salvation movement was planned in Jesus Christ from eternity, and this has been accomplished.

/Verse 12. /In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

/We can confidently approach God because our sins have been forgiven by faith in Jesus Christ. /The reason why we can confidently approach God is because our sins have been forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ.

/It is because we have become children of God by being clothed with righteousness and being united with Jesus Christ. / God rejoices in us, and he accepts us and delights in us.

/Verse 13. /I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

/Therefore, the salvation of believers is God's grace and it is worthy of thanksgiving. / Paul suffered many troubles for this great work. Therefore, he told them not to be discouraged because it is a glorious thing to suffer to preach the gospel.

/The gospel itself has glory, and there is great glory in those who preach the gospel. /As light shines brighter when the darkness comes,/ the glory will shine brighter in times of suffering.

/The gospel and positions of glory shine brighter when suffering comes.

/Now let us discuss the third point. / A prayer for inner being's maturity. /Verses 14-19.

/Verses 14-15. /For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

/Here, Paul says, "I kneel before the Father". /He feared God and prayed in an earnest position. /Paul prayed, "from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

/In verse 10, "his whole family in heaven" refers to power, authority and angels. /God gave names to angels and authorities. / "Name" refers to personality.

/Peter was named "Peter" because he had a personality like a rock./ God blesses believers according to their individual spiritual growth.

/Like this, God has assigned everyone their lot. / The apostle Paul prayed that the inner being in each believer would grow stronger and stronger in the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 16. /I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

/The salvation and union of Jews and Gentiles in Christ is the mystery of God./ Paul prayed that the inner being of saved believers would grow stronger in the Holy Spirit.

/Because there is an inner being, there is an outward being as well. / 2 Corinthians 4:16. / Paul prayed for the strengthening of the inner being, and this inner being refers to the reborn spirit./ The reborn spirit becomes strengthened by the Holy Spirit and by the name of God.

/We can accomplish the works of God if the inner person is strong./ As we can work when our body is healthy, we can accomplish the works of God if the inner person is strong.

/Paul prayed, “Let my inner being be strong.”/ Then how can the inner being become strong?/ It can be strengthened when believers receive guidance from the Holy Spirit and obey the Word of God.

/If we obey the Word of God by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we will have power as David did to defeat Goliath./ We can triumph over the power of the devil.

/We believers must follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and obey God’s Word so that we would overcome temptations.

/Verse 17. /so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

/Paul continuously prays./ He prayed that Christ would dwell in their hearts. /If we believers love Jesus Christ and strive to live with Him, He will stay with us and walk with us.

/It also promises that God would meet us if we sincerely seek him./ If we trust Jesus completely and approach Him, He will be with us./ Then Paul prayed for them to be “rooted and established in love.”

/We must be rooted in love. / Then we will receive the love of Christ. / We will live in the center of love. / Then we will have mercy on others and show love to others.

/Thus, God's mercy and love will be poured out to us even more./ Then the roots will grow deeper and stronger.

/Just as trees receive light and absorb water through its roots, and eventually shoot its roots deeper into the ground, /our roots will grow deeper when we share God’s love with others.

/We must remain in love, and our roots of love must grow deeper and deeper. /When this happened, the love of Christ will grow deeper, and Christ’s love will be revealed through our words and actions.

/Verse 18. /may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

/Here, it says, “together with all the saints.” / Paul prayed that they would “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”/ We must come to know the love of Christ with all the believers.

/We must share the love of Christ. /We must have fellowship with others. / Then, the size of the vessel of love will increase. / We will come to deeply know the love of Christ as well.

/A stubborn person does not know how to love others./ We must come to deeply know the love of Christ with other believers./ We must know how wide, high, and deep the love of Christ is.

/Verse 19 testifies to the love of Jesus Christ. /The love of Christ is wider than the universe. / It is higher than the sky. / The depth of love is immeasurably deep and eternal.

/We cannot perfectly know the love of Christ nor express it with words./ It also says, “that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” / In the same way, we must conform to the image of God.

/Paul is praying that all the fullness of God may be full in us. / We have to be perfect as our Father is perfect and we must learn His love.

/The fullness of God will fill us the more we know Christ’s love.

/Therefore, it means that if we come to know the love of Christ, the fullness of God will completely fill us.

/Now, the fourth point. The God who gives abundantly. /Verses 20-21.

/Verse 20. /Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

/God gives us more than we expect or think./ When a grandchild asks his grandfather for something, he may give more than what his grandchild asks for.

/We must know that because our God is omniscient, he gives us what we seek, and at times gives us more than what we ask for. /God gives us everything by his grace because he loves us.

/God does not give anything that is not grace./ When sufferings and persecutions come,/ and when we may be in a valley of death,/ God still gives us grace/ and the best things.

/As time passes, we realize that God has given us the best things./ We resent and despair because we do not know./ Our God gives us the best things and he give abundantly.

/We do not despair when we believe in this God./ If a young child grabs hold of a sharp knife,/ his mother would take away the knife./ The mother cannot give it back to the child even if he cries for it.

/The child continues to ask for it because he does not realize that it is dangerous. It would be harmful for a child if the mother gives it back to him.

/Therefore, mothers never give harmful things to their children. They give candy or better things to their children. / In the same way, God does not give us anything that would be harmful to us.

/No matter how much we pray and want something, God will not give it to us because it is



harmful. /However, God may give us something must better when we continuously pray for it./ We believe that God gives us more than what we ask for.

/In addition, God does not only give us things of the flesh, but spiritual things as well. /All things of the flesh and of the world fade and are temporary. /Spiritual things are forever and more important.

/Therefore, God sometimes disciplines the things of our flesh. / He sometimes disciplines us to make us stand firm in faith.

/For example, we may be disciplined, and through it we may benefit in the spiritual sense, and we will know that God filled us with better things.

/Verse 21. /to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

/Paul lastly prayed, “to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever.” / Jesus Christ is the head of the church. / The church is His body.

/God is glorified when his movement of salvation is accomplished through Jesus Christ and through the church. /The same goes for us believers.

/If we keep our faith through Jesus Christ, it will remain forever. /It will glorify God.

/Therefore, we must glorify God by obeying God’s Word through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We must also grow in faith and stand before God.

/With this, we will conclude the fourth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you.