

The Love of God an Eternal Ring! (NOTES Friday Night Jan 13 2023 Bible Study)

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. This is Paul's prayer for the saints. V16 says, "according to the riches of His glory." That means that it is limitless. There is no way to put a boundary on the riches of His grace and glory. Then that we would be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. This is beyond our spirit. It is not of our own doing. It is according to what God is doing through the Holy Spirit in the inner man. Then V17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. Many may have Christ in their hearts, but He really doesn't dwell there in the fullest. When Christ dwells in a heart by faith, it means He is the authority there. He is not just a guest invited in whenever we want Him. He must dwell there constantly. Christ must be fully in control of our lives at all times. It will take faith for Christ to really dwell in our hearts. How do we get faith? Faith comes through the channel of His word. Faith comes by hearing the word. If we dwell somewhere, how often are we there? Isn't it day after day after day? That is what God wants in our lives. We cannot get Him any closer to us than to have Him on the inside our heart. Observe the words, "that He may dwell;" not that He may call upon us sometimes, as a casual visitor enters a house and tarries for a night, but that He may dwell and take up His abode in our hearts. That He may dwell in our heart is the best room of the house. What do we get when Christ dwells in our heart? Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: When Christ dwells in our hearts, we get the fullness of Christ and we are complete in Him! Not just in our thoughts alone, but in our affections. Paul wants us to have a love to Christ. Not just a love for Christ but a love to Christ. Not a love that flames up under an earnest sermon, and then dies out, but a constant flame. We must have the abiding love of Jesus in our hearts, both day and night, like the flame upon the altar which never went out. This cannot be accomplished except by faith and that only through His word. Faith must be strong, or love will not be fervent; the root of the flower must be healthy, or we cannot expect the bloom to be sweet. Faith is the lily's root, and love is the lily's bloom. If we do not allow Jesus to fully reign in our heart, we really haven't given Him control of our lives. Therefore, Paul prays that you may always trust Christ, that you may always love Him. The Lord Jesus must be constantly brought under our heart's attention. Then we are able to comprehend the measurement of His love. So, it is in His word that our faith is built up, and we learn of His great love for us, which in turn, cause us to love Him more. It is an eternal ring. Our eyes of faith become brighter and we are able to see Him even more as He is. This reminds me of a gold ring. A ring is eternal. It is a circle with no beginning and no end. We learn His love for us and our love to Him grows. It is circular, never ending. It reminds me of Song 5:14 His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires. Gold rings or gold bands; the rings in scripture always speaks of eternal things. There is no beginning or end and it tells us of the eternal love that Christ has for us and it is expressed by His hands. If you remember in a previous chapter in Song of Solomon where it is said His left hand is under my head and His right hand doth embrace me. This is why she knew what His hands felt like. It is because she had

experienced that. Around her head she felt the strength of the eternal love of Christ unto her. And then she was completely engulfed and embraced by His love. The more we embrace His love for us, the more that our love for Him grows. It is an eternal ring that never ends or is never broken. Paul tells us in our text; that you being rooted and grounded in love. It means that God intends for this love to be in my heart. This is the desire. These two terms tell us of the foundation. Rooted means that it goes down deep to the love of God and it will not be plucked up. It is not something shallow; it has roots and this is what God intends for us. We must have those roots in the love of God. Then grounded which is another term for foundation. The taller a building is, the deeper the foundation is. This must be true in our own lives. If we intend to rise to the highest of heights in regards to the love of God, it means that the roots must go down deep. It is the foundation. That is what God wants to do in our lives with divine love. Remember the Church of Ephesus. They left their first love. This was a very serious thing. It was love declining: "Thou hast left thy first love." So, my brethren, this is a most important matter, our love to Christ, because it touches the very heart of that communion with Him which is the crown and essence of our spiritual life. What is it that we can give the Lord? There is only one thing we can give our Lord. Love! As we learn more about the Lord through His word, our love to Him grows and we begin to understand how much He loves us. Then V18 May be able to comprehend with all saints. Notice, the provision is for all saints. God intends for these verses to be reproduced and manifest in the heart of every believer, but according to scripture that is not going to happen. The provision is there that they could comprehend, if they would, but the only one we have to be concerned about is me. Notice the word comprehend in V18 and the word know in V19. Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. It seems that Paul is telling us we must comprehend before we truly love. Yet love developed becomes the fountain of desires which nothing can satisfy but perfect knowledge of Christ. Light and love, understanding and affection, are mutual handmaids. The mind has its part to play in leading the heart to love, as is indicated in this passage; "able to comprehend" coming before "to know"! The heart must first be informed about Christ before our affections are fixed on Him. First, the faith of Christ as He is made known to us in the Word of truth. (Psalm 34:8 says) "O taste and see that the LORD is good." It expresses what I am striving to convey. First the personal taking of the Lord and the soul feeding upon Him in His word, and then the fuller discernment of His loveliness. "Taste and see (perceive, realize, know) that the Lord is good." It is in this, that we obtain an experimental knowledge of Him. We cannot account for anyone else, but I must determine that this message is going to apply to my life. 18 That I may be able to comprehend. Then; what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height. Then Paul presents the love of God as a giant cube; and that cube corresponds with different phases and expressions of divine love. God intends that we learn every one of them. He wants us to learn all the faucets of divine love. So, that we may be able to comprehend, first the breadth. The breadth actually speaks of the prosperity and the blessings of the Lord. Scripture says, the Lord has brought me into a large place. Ps 18:19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. (Large place meaning breadth). We really do learn the wonders of God's love during His time of great blessing. And of Him making us so prosperous in the Lord spiritually. Then there is the length of the love of God. The word length simply means extremity. It points to our own extremity. That is a time where we learn God and when we come to the end of our rope so to speak. In other words when we have exhausted all of our own resources. This is where we learn the lengths to which the love of God will go in order to

minister unto us. For an example we could note Paul's extremity when in Acts 27, it says V20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. It doesn't say everyone except Paul lost hope. All lost hope! This was his extremity. There is a time when everyone of us comes to the end or the extremity of our own selves; of our own hope....until God! That is exactly what happen to Paul. When all hope that we should be saved was then taken away, then God stood forth. The angel of the Lord said fear not Paul. Then Paul was able to tell those that were with him, be of good cheer, I believe it will be exactly as God said. There will be a loss of the ship, but no loss of any man's life. And it happened exactly like that. This is one way where we learn the love of God in our extremity, when we have come to the end of ourselves. Ga 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Notice the last part that Paul said. Who loved me, and gave Himself for me. That statement has been true all the way down through the ages. God loved us even before the foundation of the world and sent His Son to die for us. What is the difference here? It Seems as if Paul has just discovered it in this passage for himself. That is the same thing in our lives. There are certain experiences when we come to the end of our own rope that we learn by experience, the love of God for me. I believe that is what Paul was getting at here. He loved me and gave Himself for me. We can understand the glorious power of that love when we experience it. Then the next one is the depth of love. This is expressed by the valley experience. The depth tells us of those deep holes that we sometimes find ourselves in. Valley experiences are a part of learning the love of God. We cannot learn the depth of divine love without the valley experiences. David said, I will fear no evil: even though I am there in the valley of the shadow of death; I have no fear of evil; because thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Paul said in 2Co 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. The next time we are in a deep valley and are suffering and God comforts us; keep in mind that we are qualified to comfort someone else with the same comfort where we have been comforted by God. How? It is because we have experienced it. This is what God wants us to learn in the depths of love. There are different degrees of God's love. Some folks have a very shallow experience of the love of God. The deepest love that we know today is the love of a man and his wife. That is the same depth of love and even much more that there will be between Christ and His bride. Every Christian is not willing to learn the depths of that love so that he can be joined unto Christ. But we can have the depths of this love in our own experience. Then we come to the height of love. That is the mountain top experience. Keep in mind, we do not learn the mountain top experience or any other experiences all at one time. No person is going to be able to survive just going continually through the valley. We are promised in Psalm 23; though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil. There are lessons that we simply cannot learn any other way. But neither can we survive if we just have the valley experience. That is why we need all four of these in order to really understand and comprehend the fullness of God's love. These mountain top experiences are those wonderful heights when God brings us to that glorious place where we really are on top of the world. Remember when David wanted to bring the Ark up to Jerusalem and they tried to do it the way the Philistines did it by bringing it on a cart. God smote the man for it. He would not allow that. But then they did it the right way. They carried the Ark on the shoulders of the priest. Then we read that David danced before the Lord. That was a mountain top experience for him because now the Ark was going to be back in Jerusalem where it

belonged. There are many mountaintop experiences that God has for us and they are all a glorious expression of His love for us to experience the height of divine love. Eph 3:19 And (Even) to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. The word "and" here should be translated "even" because V19 actually explains or enlarges on V18. V 19 is the extent of divine love that God intends for us to understand. He tells us in V 18 that we are to comprehend the breadth, and length, and depth, and height. Then He explains it further in V19 even, to the extent that we might know the love of Christ, what? Which passeth knowledge. You can talk about the love of Christ and you can expound on it all day long but it will never top experiencing it. All the children of God do not know this love to the same extent. The love of God, which God intends should be in our lives is that which we experience ourselves. So, when he says even to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. You can't reason it out! There are experiences that you will have that you will not be able to convey to anyone else. Why? Because they have to be experienced for yourself. This is what God and Paul are saying here. I can tell people of the joy of salvation. But until they experience it for themselves, they don't know what it means. That is why he says, it is beyond; it passes knowledge. But then notice the result. This is what God is wanting to do in our lives. The result is; That you might be filled with all the fulness of God. What is the fullness of God? It is the fullness of divine love! That is who God is and He wants that same fullness in our lives. Paul tells us; "that ye might be filled unto all the fullness of God." This suggests the idea of a continuous process, a progressive and enlarging experience. The ultimate aim of all genuine spiritual desire is to know God so intimately as to be filled with all the glory of God; filled to the overflowing by Him. Here human language fails us, for our minds are incapable of conceiving such indescribable heights of heaven. You must experience it. All we can say, is that this request, expresses an approximation to the supreme perfection which is begun in this life and shall be forever growing in the holiness of the future. "That ye might be filled." The Apostle Paul was praying that God might more fully possess us in a personal way. Why? That we might be brought to yield ourselves more completely to Him? Think of the Christian being filled by and with God, not only as a dwelling may be filled with sunlight or a vessel with liquid, but completely occupied. Is it sometimes; once in a while; or always? We desire that Christ should dwell in our heart by faith, but is there any restriction on that desire? Is there any portion of our being marked "private" reserved solely for ourself? In other words, is there any part of our complex being not fully given up to God in Christ, surrendered fully to Christ's occupancy and control? That is a searching question which each of us must honestly face. If there is any part of my outward life or any part of my inner man which is not fully surrendered to God, then I am not filled with Him. Am I really yielding my entire self to Him, so that I am sanctified in my "whole spirit and soul and body" (1 Thessalonians 5:23)? That is a challenge indeed. But we have the next verse. It is God who will accomplish this in us. Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. We must apply this verse to the context and that is divine love. God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all our efforts! It is above anything we could think or even imagine in this matter of divine love. It is God who will put this same divine love in us; all of these points that we have stated above. God is able to put this same love in my heart. So, I ask you, what is our part. Just believe it and yield to it. So, unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in you, that is the power of the Holy Ghost. Eph 3:21 Unto Him be glory. This is the ultimate reason. God will ultimately have all the glory. The point with us is as we find here Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout

all ages, world without end. Amen. That is going to happen. But the beauty of it is we don't have to wait. We can have it right now. It must be true in my life right now that I give Him that place in my own life and experience. To be strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man, to know Christ's constant presence in my heart by faith so that we are rooted and founded in love, to be able to comprehend all dimensions and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, and to be filled with all the fullness of God. It is by faith that we really view God as the Apostle Paul did here. Such experiences may indeed exceed anything we have yet attained. They may exceed what we have even seriously thought of and prayed for, yet they are possible and realizable even in this life, according to the Holy Spirit's Power which worketh in us. It is the express design of the Holy Spirit in recording this to encourage us. The Holy Spirit's purpose here is the same as was Christ's in the closing section of that prayer which He gave to His disciples in Jn 17:26. God is able! God is able to bring us into a closer walk and a more constant fellowship with Himself. And He is able to make all grace abound toward us and fill us with Himself. The fact is, dear friends, we must believe He is able. Divine love is the light, the life, and the way God has provided. Now, God is both life, and light, and the way, and, to crown all, God is love. From this overflowing fountain of the infinite love of God, all our love to God must spring. Maybe there is no greater verse in the Bible about Divine love than this. Joh 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. Jesus loves us infinitely. He says, "I love you"? This is His answer, and is it not yours? Oh, my Lord, it is true indeed! There is little need for you to tell me this with your lips Lord, for you have assured me of it by your wounds. I know beyond a shadow of doubt that thou lovest me and I love you. This is the eternal ring forever, the Love of God!