

Ephesians 3.20,21

Exceedingly Abundantly Beyond

Popular American AUTHOR – Commencement Speech at KENYON College

NOT a Professing Christian, Understood Something Some Xtians do NOT

Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god...to worship...is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap your real meaning in life, then you will never have enough. It's the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure, and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before [your loved ones] finally plant you...Worship power and you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end of feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.

David Foster Wallace

David's Parents > Both Respected Uni Professors – ATHEISTS

David tried 2 X's join Catholic Church but FLUNKED Period of INQUIRY 2x's

Writer – Professor / Struggled with SUBSTANCE Abuse, SEXUAL Addiction

ENDED Life at age 46 – Backyard PATIO – Hanging from SUICIDE ROPE

Words ECHO: **“pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive”**

WORSHIP Fundamental Part of our Humanity > We're WIRED to WORSHIP

God MADE you WORSHIPPER – But God will NOT MAKE you Worship HIM

DECISION you have to Make – BEST Choice – But YOU gotta Figure that OUT

Ephes Letter: FOLLOWER of JESUS CHRIST – On HIGH VOLTAGE Worship

Locked up in PRISON CELL > He thought it was PRAYER CLOSET

Locked Room with NO WINDOWS became CELESTIAL OBSERVATORY

ETERNITY Past: God Chose Bride for Son / ETERNITY Future: Wedding Feast

IF Apostle Paul was in Modern American Penitentiary > PSYCH Ward > Crazy!

SOLDIERS who were CHAINED to him HEARD him BABBLE About...

the riches of his glory

power through his Spirit in your inner being

Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

being rooted and grounded in love

strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth

to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

that you may be filled with all the fullness of God Ephesians 3.14-19

Perhaps got NOSE BLEEDS from THIN Air in High Altitudes of Spirituality

ON his KNEES > he was SPIRIT Traveling into God's HEAVENLIES

Each PETITION of Paul's PRAYER is Like Step UP to GOD

Pleas ASCEND Up each NEW Level of HEAVENLY STAIRCASE

STRUGGLED UP TO TOP STEP of HEAVENLY STAIRCASE...

STEP into INFINITY of ETERNAL GRACE > Filled with FULLNESS of God

COME TO MIDDLE – CENTER of Ephesians – LOOK Backwards & Forwards

Chapters 1-3: Glory of Christ / Chapters 4-6: Glory in the Church

Our 2 Verses DOXOLOGY: DOXO = Glory, Honor / LOGOS = Word

An expression of praise to God – Several Times in Paul's 13 Letters

Here - COMPREHEND UNComprehensible / SURPASSES Knowledge

CLIMBED So High on Spiritual Staircase > God, you are SO FAR Beyond!!

v. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think

## 1. God is Able

a. He is Alive v. 20 “now to him who is able to do”

Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> C World // Our 21<sup>st</sup> C – VERY Religious / FULL of Gods

Paul CLAIMS that HIS GOD is UNIQUELY ALIVE – ETERNAL, RISEN  
God of ISRAEL and LORD of Every Nation – God and Father of Lord Jesus X

“their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.” Psalm 115.4-8

Dare NOT Trust IDOLS – Whether made of PLASTER or PIXELS

Whether in our HEARTS or our HANDS – In our MINDS or MADE with Hands

During time of PROPHET ISAIAH – People of Judah – God’s Holy Nation  
GUILTY of Worshipping the IDOLS of their PAGAN NEIGHBORS

"Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear. But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable." Isaiah 41.22-24

Equally FOOLISH to Trust IN – Education, Career, Family, Health, Religion

All those GOOD Things Can NOT Give us LIFE and ETERNITY

He is the One who made our lovers, landscapes, and livelihoods, along with the universe and eternity that contain them. Bryan Chapell

Last word from Apostle JOHN to this Ephesian Church...

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5.21

b. He is Abundant v. 20 “immeasurably more than we ask or imagine”

ABRAHAM – Old Man, Barren Wife – No Kids – Way TOO LATE for That  
Gonna be FATHER of a SON > of NATION > BLESS Entire WORLD

In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we  
might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Galatians 3.14

We in BEIJING – Gathered from Many Nations – Rejoice in Abe’s Blessing in X  
I PRAY for IMMEDIATE Family – God cares for my Grandchildren’s Children  
God will BRING Multitudes into His Kingdom from Places I cannot Imagine

DAVID – RUNT of Jesse Litter – Youngest, Smallest SON > Not look KINGLY  
Jesus Christ ETERNALLY Reigns on THRONE of KING DAVID – Even Now

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great  
power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32.17

Early 1980’s lived near ARUA, Uganda / WE taught St. Paul’s Theol College  
Over the hill from KULUVA Hospital – both Ministries of Church of Uganda  
ONLY Hospital and Theological and Agricultural Training Cntr for MILES  
Years of WAR – Many people SERVED & BLESSED in Various Ways

NURSE Midwife – Delivered 1<sup>st</sup> 2 Sons – from KOREA – Young Soon Shim  
Woman of PRAYER and Faith > “24 hour Electricity” for our Hospital!!”

150 Miles from Nearest Paved Road – Diesel Generator for 2 hrs – Sometimes!

When FUEL Tanker Truck NOT Getting SHOT At

GERMAN Engineer hiking Near our Place found a STREAM of Water

Years Later – Hydro TURNED On! - Young Soon was LIT UP All Night Long

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and  
whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and  
do what pleases him. 1 John 3.21,22

There is too much of our humanity in our requests for them to govern God's responses...our human requests are feeble and finite. We want dessert when we need meat, success when we need humility, and safety when we need godly courage – or Christlike sacrifice. We ask within the limits of human vision, but he is able to do more. He sees into eternity  
Bryan Chapell

He is able to do

He is able to do what we ask

He is able to do what we imagine

He is able to do all we imagine

He is able to do much more than we imagine

He is able to do much more than we ask

He is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine

## 2. God is Glorious

a. Christ v. 21 “glory in Christ Jesus”

3 Chapters – Paul has MAGNIFIED the LORD – EXALTED in Lord Jesus X  
ETERNAL Plan of God FULLY Accomplished because His Righteousness

In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ Ephesians 1.5

In him we have redemption through his blood Ephesians 1.7

Never was GREATER OUTPOURING of UNDESERVED GRACE

Never will be GREATER OVATION of UNENDING GLORY

“Grace is glory begun, glory is grace perfected.” Jonathan Edwards

he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named  
Ephesians 1.20,21

Over 3000 years ago MOSES made PASSIONATE Request to God of ISRAEL

“Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence.”  
Exodus 33.18,19

NOW We in Christ SEE Far MORE Glory than PROPHET MOSES...

“We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”  
John 1.14

b. Church v. 21 “in the church throughout all generations”

God is glorified, not the church, except in being the recipient of God’s love... Whenever the church felt it had power, it was most in danger... The church exists for worship and service and must perform those acts with the same humility as her Lord. Then God is given honor and glory.  
Klyne Snodgrass

THAT is the CHURCH the ANGELS PONDER – Display of God’s GLORY

“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, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”  
Ephesians 3.10,11

GRACE & GLORY that God will SHOWER on WORLD thru US

Men, Women, Boys, Girls – Gathered in Families of Faith to Worship HIM

GLORY in the Church – Gathered in HIS Name – HE is in our MIDST

“the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth” 1 Timothy 3.15

c. Consummation – Praise of God NO Expiration Date – ETERNAL Glory

v. 21 “forever and ever” – PRAISE is ETERNALLY UNFINISHED TASK

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God... I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the

sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.”

Revelation 21.3,22-26

SERVICE & SACRIFICES we make to be HONEST in Corrupt World

FAITHFUL to our Spouse in World full of ADULTERY

HOLY in amidst Darkness and IMMORALITY

KIND and FORGIVING when People are RUDE and UNCARING

PATIENT when others are having a MELT DOWN

LOOK Out for OTHERS when everyone else is LOOKING at their PHONE

DOING such things WORLD May NEVER See – but GOD Cannot MISS

Manifest KINGDOM of God > POINT Beyond this World to GLORY

Ultimate joy lies beyond the walls of the world.

J.R.R. Tolkien

### 3. God is in Us

a. Power v. 20 “according to his power at work within us”

“his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

Ephesians 1.19,20

even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved

Ephesians 2.5

Paul challenges CHURCH of CHRIST – Show GLORY of Christ to WORLD

walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called Ephesians 4.1

put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another

Ephesians 4.25

Paul leads us in PRAYER Up into Stratosphere of God’s HEAVENLIES

Way we KNOW we have BEEN There – Christian LIFE at Ground LEVEL

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another Ephesians 4.32

be imitators of God, as beloved children Ephesians 5.1

Wives, submit to your own husbands Ephesians 5.22

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church Ephesians 5.25

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger Ephesians 6.4

1983 Mary Nelson kneeling in GARDEN in yard in St. Louis, Missouri

PRAYERS turned to TEARS - Why God NOT given she & Husband a Child??

9 Mo. later Mary's LABORS > Birth to 1<sup>st</sup> Pregnancy Resource Center St. Louis

Mary's Heart is FULL – Never did become Life-Giving Mother

Mary LIFE-SAVING Mother to 1000's kids who have NOT been ABORTED

Think of what God might do in you and through you – as a community, you as an individual. Now reflect on the fact that God is perfectly capable of doubling that, trebling that, going so far beyond it that you would look back at the present moment and wonder how you could be so short-sighted. But this isn't a magic trick. God's power is not ours to do what we like with. If you want to get on the map of verse 20 (Ephesians 3), ask yourself whether you're on the map of the three chapters it's taken to get Paul to this point. N.T. Wright

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being” Ephesians 3.16

b. Received through Prayer v. 20 “all we ask or imagine”

You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. James 4.2,3

Remember He is our GOD, Not our GENIE / Sovereign not a SLOT MACHINE

PRAYER of Paul – We will TRUST God with WHOLE HEART  
 BELIEVE that God – Not Apple or.... KNOWS Best what we NEED  
 FATHER in Heaven - goes Exceedingly Abundantly Beyond Small Imagination  
 School – Spouse – Size – Smiling Face See in Mirror ORDAINED by Him  
 Way He intends to SANCTIFY you and Make you More like CHRIST

How could PAUL – Chained to Soldier in Roman Prison CELL  
 Writing to MOTLEY Group of Struggling, Small Groups of Christians  
 How could he Say that God was Doing MORE than Asks or Imagines??  
 KNOWS that God working ALL Things for Good of Church, Glory of Name

No matter how obscure or insignificant the act, when we serve the purposes of  
 the Savior, the glory of the Son of God shines in us with increasing glory because  
 of his power that is at work in us. James Boice

“if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain,  
 ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”  
Matthew 17.20

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Ephesians 3.<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we  
 ask or think, according to the power at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the  
 church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.