

NOW UNTO HIM WHO IS ABLE

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Text: Ephesians 3:20

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²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Introduction:

In these verses we see the majesty of our glorious God, and they teach even more about who we are, and what we have in Jesus Christ.

1. THIS IS A STATEMENT ABOUT GOD'S GREATNESS

Ephesians 3:10

¹⁰To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Thank God, there is help for those who desire His power. There is help for those who want to know His awesome love. There is help for those who want to show that same awesome love to others. There is help for all those who desire to know the Lord in His

fullness! This verse tells us about the source of that help.

A. The Greatness of His Ability

The word “able” means, “to be capable, strong and powerful.” Our God is a God Who possesses “all power in Heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:18

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

- God is the God of Creation

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

- God is the God of Revelation

Ephesians 1:9

⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

- God is the God of Salvation

Galatians 2:20

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.

- God is the God of Resurrection

Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

God is Able

B. The Greatness of His Abundance

Paul says that God is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think.” The phrase “exceeding abundantly above” had the idea of, “going above and beyond.” God’s ability exceeds the lengths to which our minds can think. His ability goes beyond the limits of what we can ask.

Thank God, there are no limits to His power! He can move mountains, change lives, lift burdens, meet needs, and He can change the lives of substandard saints and transform them into vessels of honor for His glory. That is just a small glimpse of how great our Lord is.

2. THIS IS A STATEMENT ABOUT GOD'S GRACE

Ephesians 3:20

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,

The grace of God is the ground of our salvation. Because the Lord extended His grace toward us, He loved us. He put us in His eternal plan. He sent His Son to die for us on the cross. He sent the Gospel message to us. He sent the Spirit of God to convict us. He saved us when we called upon Him. And, His grace continues to sustain us day by day and moment by moment.

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The grace of God also works in our lives to help us accomplish is will in the world. Paul gives us some insights into the way the grace of God works in our lives.

A. His Grace Empowers Us

Paul tells us that the Lord is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” This phrase simply

reiterates what I have already said, God empowers His people to live for Him.

B. His Grace Enlivens Us

The power to live for the Lord comes from Him, but it comes from within. How is that possible? It is possible only because He lives in us. When He saved us, the Spirit of God came into us with power for God's glory. He empowers us by enlivening us. He empowers us by imparting His life to us.

His grace empowers us for service. His grace enlivens us for living. Thank God for grace!

3. THIS IS A STATEMENT ABOUT GOD'S GLORY

Ephesians 3:21

²¹Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Paul ends this by making a grand statement about the glory of God. Notice what he says about God and His glory.

A. The Place of His Glory

In the church.

This phrase reminds us that the church exists for the sole purpose of bringing glory to God. He is glorified in the church, because the church is made of of sinners who have been saved by His grace. He loved us when we deserved to be cast into Hell. He reached out to us in love and grace and drew us to Himself. He saved us when we called on Him by faith, and He changed our lives.

Now, as we live for Him and honor His Word, He receives glory from the church. As we love Him and love one another, He is glorified. As we preach the Gospel and gather for worship, He is glorified. As we sing, pray, work, and serve in the church, He is glorified.

Everything we do at the church should be done with a view to bringing glory to the Lord.

B. The Permanence of His Glory

This glory that God receives through the church, and through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, is not a fleeting glory. Paul says that it will last “through out all ages, world without end.” That phrase literally means “unto all the generation of the age of ages.” God will be receiving glory from His church, because of His Son, when the end of time comes and eternity flows into eternity.

Close:

Johann Sebastian Bach said, "All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the soul's refreshment; where this is not remembered there is no real music but only a devilish hub-bub."

At the top of every composition, he wrote the letters: "J.J." Those initials stand for "Jesus Juva," which means "Jesus help me." Bach ended every composition with the letters "S.D.G." Those letters stand for "Soli Dei gratia" which means "To God alone the praise."

Bach had the glory of God at the heart of every piece of he authored.

God Who is Able.

That same desire should dwell each of our hearts.