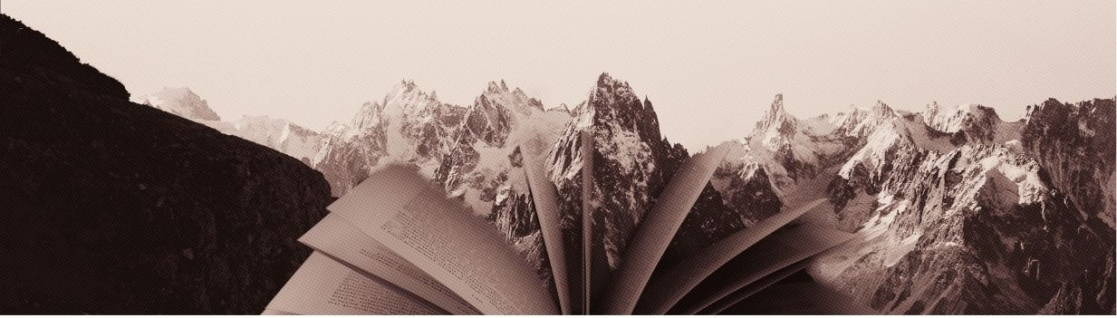


THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Daily Devotions

Get the most out of the
book of Ephesians by
spending regular time
reading and pondering
the word of God



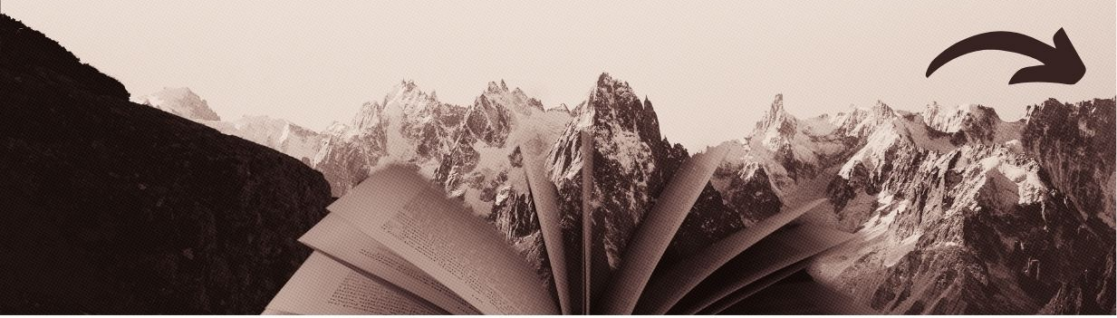
THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Day 15

Read **Ephesians 2:11-22**

YOU HAVE BEEN BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS, WITH CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF AS THE CORNERSTONE. **IN HIM** THE WHOLE BUILDING, BEING JOINED TOGETHER, GROWS INTO A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD, IN WHOM YOU ALSO ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING PLACE OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT.

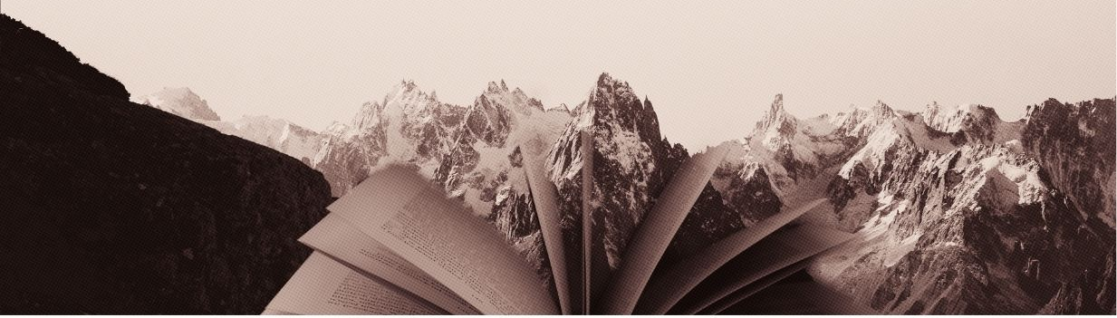
To understand the implications of this verse we must realise the significance of the temple for this audience. When humanity went its own way, we were banished from the garden, the place where the divine and the earthly met. As the children's book "The Veil, the Temple and the Garden" put it, because of your sin, you can't come in." But God, as we have seen in the text we have been reading, always had a way in mind...



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His interim way was through dwelling with His chose people if they would enter a covenant, an agreement, with Him, around a way to live. Initially with a tent in the desert, and later with a temple in Jerusalem, all the design and imagery had garden connotations and was a meeting place of heaven and earth. You can read in **Exodus 40:34-36** and **2 Chronicles 7:1** about the glory of God entering the temple.

This place of meeting, of heaven invading earth, is now us! We are to be “mobile homes”, “caravans” of God’s glory on earth, giving people a glimpse of God, until we dwell with Him forever.



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Day 16

Read: **Ephesians 3:1-13.**

After reading this passage, read **v1-7** again. This divine mystery has been alluded to in **1:9** and referenced at the start of the letter. The specific is the divide between Jews and Gentiles being nullified – the macrocosm is all things being made right. All things being brought into perfect unity. All things reconciled to Him.

Theologian N.T. Wright refers to this as new creation, and the picture is of a united heaven and earth. Use your imagination to picture the impact the reconciled heaven and earth would have on your life.

Complicated relationships making sense. Knowing as you are known. Sin dealt with not just in your life but in the world.

Anytime today that you bump up against the obvious imperfection of our world, thank God for the divine mystery that will be revealed fully once and for all, even as it is currently revealed in Christ.



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Day 17

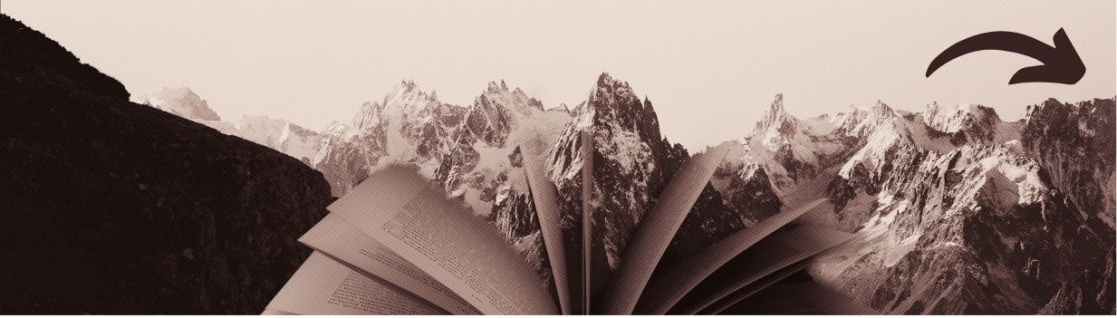
Read: **Ephesians 3:1-13**

I BECAME A SERVANT OF THIS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THE EXERCISE OF HIS POWER.

We read in chapter 1 that God exercised His power when He raised Christ from the dead. This same power has been exercised to gift Paul His grace. This grace enabled Paul to be the servant of the gospel that he is.

What are the ramifications for us?

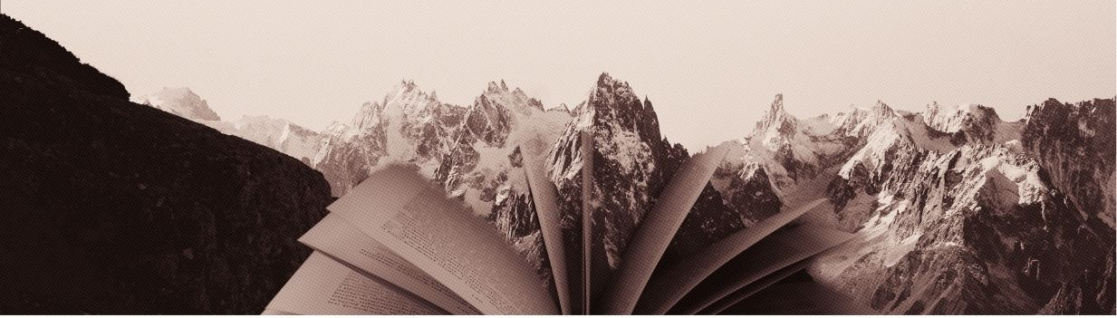
As much as God's power was exercised to raise Christ from the dead, and to give Paul grace, it was exercised to give you, Kay, grace. To give you, Josiah, grace. To give you, Beryl, grace. The grace we all receive is a miracle to us, a display of God's power. Let us not "trample this grace underfoot" treating it as if were nothing!...



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This grace compelled Paul to become a servant of the gospel. What does your time and thought investment show that you are a servant of? Mine at times has been improving my standard of living. Other times it would show me to be the servant of my next adventure. At other times it would show me to be the servant of my daydreams.

The first 2 are not bad in and of themselves, but may they be relegated to a much lower priority, and Jesus, let being a servant of the gospel be my first priority. Give me eyes to see what you see, feet to go where you send.

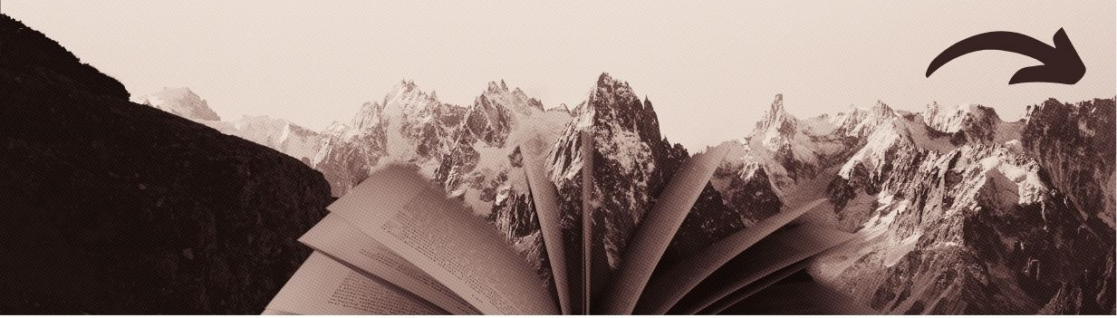


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Day 18

Read: **Ephesians 3:1-13**

TO ME – LESS THAN THE LEAST OF ALL THE SAINTS. We observe a progression here: the longer you go, the lower you should go. 56 AD, **1 Corinthians 15:9** FOR I AM THE LEAST OF THE APOSTLES...60 OR 61 AD, **Ephesians 3:8**, least of the saints...62-64 AD, **1 Timothy 1:15** CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS, OF WHOM I AM THE WORST. From the least of the apostles, to the least of the saints, to the least of everyone. The longer we go, the lower we should go. Not in a self-loathing way, but in a continued revelation of how good and holy God is, and a breathe-a-sigh-of-relief and thank-God-for-Jesus-making-us-right sort of way. An “I could never have gotten this done” sort of way. A freedom of acknowledging the depravity I was in, and that while I was there, Jesus died for me...



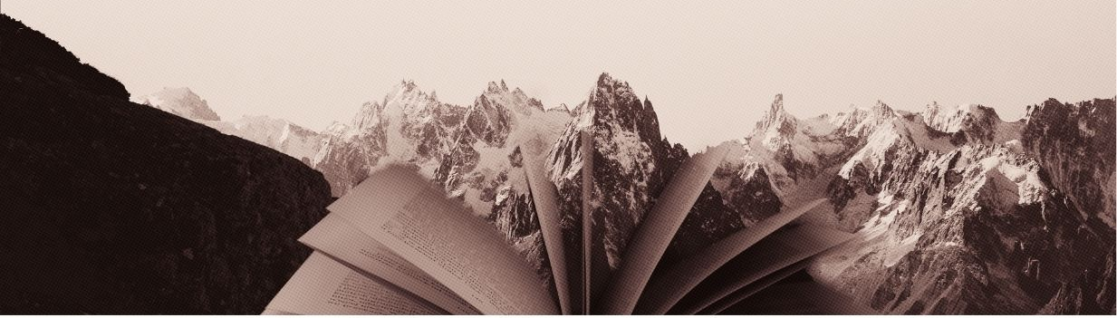
THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

That I am so undeniably and irrevocably loved, because God isn't waiting with a big stick to beat me into shape. He knew what He was getting into, so before the foundation of the world He paid the price by giving His Son to die. (is that better?)

Take a moment to consider these words and let them sink in.

I've never been more loved than I am right now. I wasn't holding You up, so there's nothing I can do to let you down. It doesn't take a trophy to make you proud. I've never been more loved than I am right now.

(Jireh, Maverick City Music)



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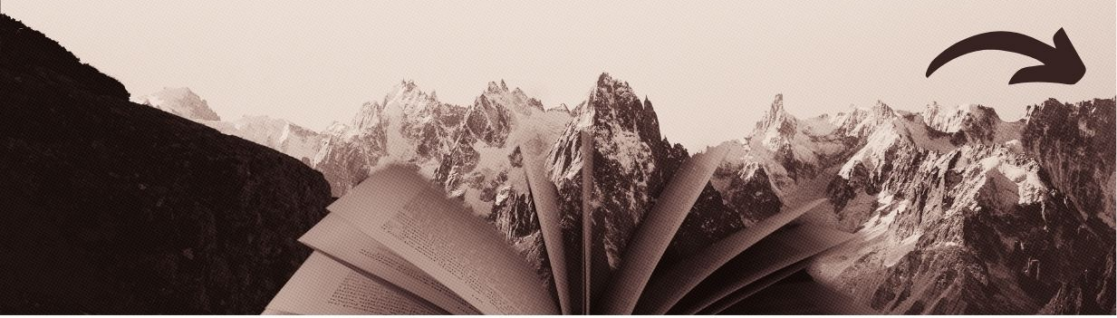
Day 19

Read: **Ephesians 3:1-13**

THIS GRACE WAS GIVEN TO PROCLAIM TO THE GENTILES...AND TO ENLIGHTEN EVERYONE.

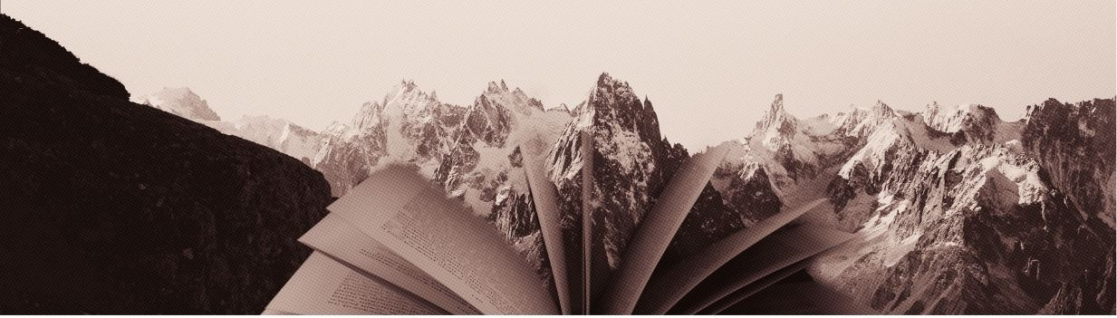
Any grace we are given is not for ourselves only, it is to be shared with others. It is not to promote self; it is to impart to others. Paul understands that God didn't choose this shocking sinner who was doing great damage to His beloved church just for him, but so that through him, great things might be accomplished to the glory of God and for the good of people.

How about this? THE PURPOSE OF THIS ENLIGHTENMENT IS THAT THOROUGH THE CHURCH THE MULTIFACTED WISDOM (or wisdom in its rich variety) OF GOD SHOULD NOW BE DISCLOSED TO THE RULERS AND THE AUTHORITIES IN THE HEAVELY REALMS.



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Us being enlightened, having the revelation of, cottoning onto, the unifying message of the gospel that tears down the dividing wall of hostility communicates to the divine council. To principalities and powers. A lot more is riding on unity than we thought.



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Day 20

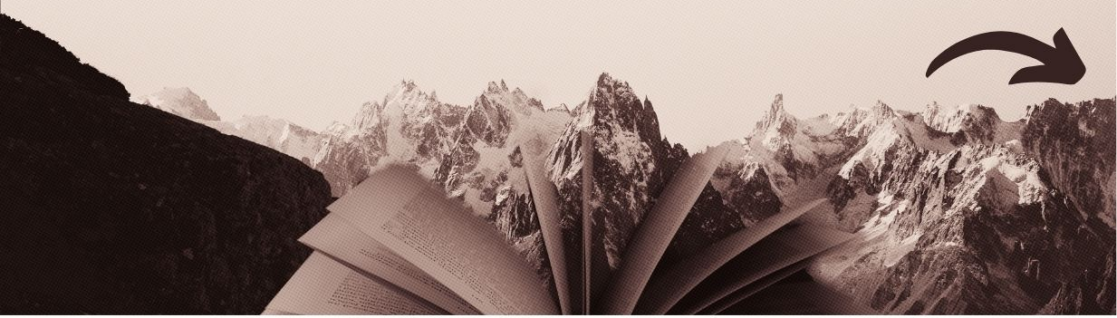
Read: **Ephesians 3:1-13**

THIS (the church disclosing the rich wisdom of God to the heavenly government) WAS ACCORDING TO THE ETERNAL PURPOSE THAT HE ACCOMPLISHED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD...

God has accomplished His eternal purpose. He has won. We live from the victorious outcome God has achieved in Jesus, not from one nail biting moment to the next, hoping for victory.

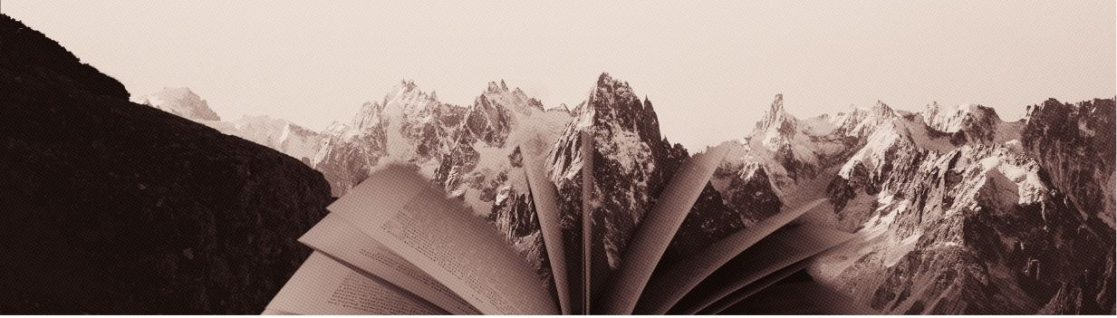
IN WHOM WE HAVE BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENT ACCESS TO GOD...

Did you ever think it was possible? **Bold** and **confident** access to **God**! Do you live like this is won for you? Or do you tiptoe around the edge, acting more like you hope to placate God's wrath? Do not count lightly the cost paid for you to have such access...



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If someone saved up for ages to buy you and your family a Disneyland pass, with flights, accommodation, and restaurant vouchers, how would they feel if you stayed at home, looking at YouTube clips of other families at Disneyland. Or you went, but you took a packed lunch, and watched the shows but didn't go on any rides? No, the best way to value their gift would be to enjoy every moment! Be waiting for opening time at the gates! Be the last to leave! Enjoy it together! As it relates to bold and confident access to God, are you fully participating? What does more look like?



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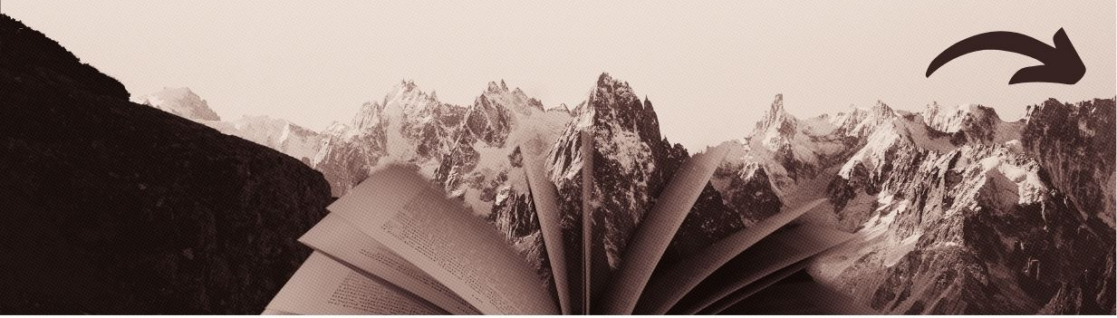
Day 21

Read: **Ephesians 3:1-13** Everything has been accomplished BY WAY OF CHRIST'S FAITHFULNESS. Your version might say "through faith in Him", and New Testament scholars have gone back and forth on it.

What do we know?

1. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus.
2. There is no way that any of this plan could have been achieved without Jesus' faithfulness.

Our faith in Him is necessary for salvation; His faithfulness is necessary for the existence of anything. He is the ground of being. Through Him all things are held together. (**Colossians 1:17**). So, FOR THIS REASON I ASK YOU NOT TO (and tell you what, we don't need to) LOSE HEART...



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Paul, pastorally, wants them to know that even though it looks bad, even though it looks like they are losing, God is on the throne. All suffering He allows is ultimately for: His glory and people's good.

Take a deep breath and remind your heart that no matter what you may face, God is on His throne, and He is with you.

