**The Fullness of God**

*Ephesians 3:19b*

**Introduction**

1. After giving a brief explanation of the mystery revealed by God through himself, Paul gave time to prayer on behalf of the Ephesian brethren (**cf. Ephesians 3:14-21).**
2. **Ephesians 3:14-16a, 19b** – His request in the prayer is that God would grant them to be filled with His fullness. (There is a way in which this would occur which will be addressed in this very text.)
3. What does the Spirit mean by the ***“fullness of God,”*** and how are we to be filled with it?
4. Unknown Without Revelation
5. Partial Revelation in Creation
   1. **Romans 1:18-19** – The Gentiles were guilty of ignoring the truth about God in order to continue in unrighteousness.
   2. **God has shown what may be known of Him to them:**
      1. **(v. 20)** – His invisible attributes – eternal power and godhead.
      2. **Eternal power** – such power that is not constrained by transient things but is of itself never waning or fading.
      3. **Godhead** – divinity – i.e. the only being with such power that is everlasting is divine.
      4. **(vv. 21-25)** – Even though the evidence was there they failed to seek Him to glorify Him “AS GOD,” i.e. in the acceptable way.
         1. Instead they decided they would arbitrate on who God is.
         2. They viewed Him as such to satisfy their fleshly lusts.
   3. **Acts 17:24-29** – He revealed Himself to the degree in creation so that men could seek Him further.
      1. The creation showed some truths about God, but did not reveal His FULLNESS.
      2. I.e. everything about God – His characteristics, virtues, how He is to be worshiped, etc.
6. Ways Past Finding Out
   1. After discussing the scheme of redemption where God confined all under sin, and provided a way for all to be redeemed through Christ he gives a doxology.
   2. **Romans 11:33-36** – The riches of God’s wisdom, knowledge, judgments, and ways are all too deep for us to comprehend.
      1. None could have woven so great a plan to bring both Jew and Gentile into God’s favor.
      2. **Ways** – the way one goes; the path one takes; course or manner of life; principles, morals, teaching, etc.
         1. Here especially regarding His movements in bringing salvation to man.
         2. Of necessity it includes all of God’s ways.
         3. None know His mind! – **v. 34**
   3. **Past finding out** – i.e. we CANNOT find them out ourselves. They have to be revealed to us, and that because GOD WANTS US TO KNOW WHO HE IS.
7. Embodied in Jesus
8. The Fullness of the Godhead Bodily
   1. **Colossians 2:9** – Christ was the full manifestation of God in the flesh (bodily – in bodily form).
      1. **Fullness** – not simply eternal power and divinity (manifested in miracles), but the very character of God.
      2. **John 1:14** – beheld His glory as of the begotten of the Father.
   2. **Fullness of God regarding His character and virtues in perfection – embodied in Jesus:**
      1. Love – **1 John 4:8**
      2. Truth – **John 18:27** (Word – **John 1:1**)
      3. Moral Perfection – **Hebrews 4:14-15**
      4. Embodiment of Fruit of the Spirit – **Galatians 5:22-23**
      5. **I.e. all that God calls us to be in the NT is His very nature, and that was expressed in the man Jesus, God’s Son.**
   3. **John 1:4-5; 3:18-21** – His coming was to bring light, or enlightenment to the world about God.
      1. This light is the truth of God and about God – which demands men walk in His ways.
      2. **Those who abide by the truth in walking in the light show their deeds are “DONE IN GOD” – i.e. in assimilation with God’s revealed nature in the Son.**
9. The Knowledge of Him
   1. **2 Corinthians 5:16** – Paul stated that he, nor anybody, knows Christ according to the flesh any longer.
      1. How are we to have the fullness of God before us to know if Jesus is not with us any longer.
      2. Because He is with us through the revelation of Himself in the word. 🡪
   2. **Colossians 2:6-10** – The Colossians were being swayed by the wisdom of men, and had turned from that which they were rooted in, Christ.
      1. We are complete in Him in regard to our taking in the fullness of God.
      2. He is revealed in “the faith,” and as we submit to it we are complete in Him.
   3. **2 Peter 1:2-4** – Things of God are known through knowing Christ, and God’s very nature is taken on by one who participates in this knowledge of Christ.
      1. Knowledge – *epignōsis* – strengthened form of knowledge – *EPI*, strengthening and intensifying, *GNOSIS*.
      2. “expressing a fuller or a full ‘knowledge,’ a greater participation by the ‘knower’ in the object ‘known,’ thus more powerfully influencing him.” (VINE)
      3. “it will be sufficient to say that EPI must be regarded as intensive, giving to the compound word a greater strength than the simple possessed…a deeper and more intimate knowledge and acquaintance…Culverwell (Spiritual Optics, p. 180) has the following note:…It is bringing me better acquainted with a thing I knew before; a more exact viewing of an object that I saw before afar off. That little portion of knowledge which we had here shall be much improved, our eye shall be raised to see the same things more strongly and clearly.’” (R.C. TRENCH)
10. Appropriated by Faith
11. God Desires Our Participation in His Fullness
    1. **1 John 1:5, 7** – The message about God is declared that we might walk in Him.
       1. God is light.
       2. Walk in the Light and have fellowship, ultimately with God.
       3. **(vv. 2-3)** – Ultimately, the Word declared about God that He is light is life, i.e. eternal life.
    2. God wants us to partake in His fullness because such is eternal life. Fellowship with God is spiritual life.
12. Filled with God’s Fullness Through Faith
    1. **Ephesians 3:14-16, 19** – Paul’s request that God would fill them with His fullness.
       1. **(v. 16)** – through the strengthening of the inner man by the Spirit (HS – revelation of God’s word).
       2. **(v. 17a)** – through the indwelling of Christ by faith. (cf. Galatians 2:20).
       3. **(v. 17b)** – as such we are rooted in love as Christ lives in us through faith. (Love to God, and each other – GOD IS LOVE)
       4. **(vv. 18-19b)** – in such participation we gain a fuller knowledge and appreciation for the love God has for us, especially as we express love to each other.
       5. **(v. 19b)** – In such we are filled with the fullness of God.
       6. **(vv. 20-21)** – It is incredible what God is able to work in us through the gospel, ultimately to His glory.
    2. The body of such people of faith function under the headship of Christ, are filled with Him, and in turn fill Him to the glory of the Father – **Ephesians 1:22-23**
13. Consummated in the Resurrection
14. As we live by faith in Jesus according to the revelation of the gospel we are filled with the fullness of God. We become more like Him each day we live according to His word. We are His children. However, while the world sees our good works which manifest Christ in us, they do not have the ability to recognize us in our glory as God’s children anymore than we do. We are promised that glory will come.
15. Awaiting the Redemption of Our Body
    1. **Romans 8:18-25** – We are children of God NOW, but we are still subject to the perishable form of creation, our fleshly body.
       1. **(v. 19)** – creation (physical body); sons of God (glorified body with God – inheritance).
       2. **(vv. 20-21)** – given hope of release from corruption.
       3. **(vv. 22-23)** – groaning in the pains of this life in anticipation of the release when we are given our spiritual body in the resurrection.
       4. **(vv. 24-25)** – we don’t yet see it, but are expecting it, thus, WE PERSEVERE.
       5. **(vv. 28-29)** – predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ.

**Conclusion**

1. It is wonderful what God has planned for us, and incredible to consider the depth of His wisdom and power in accomplishing in us what He does.
2. We should constantly seek to grow in God’s fullness, and as we do, we must consistently thank Him for His graciousness toward us in such.