

Ephesians

Week Eleven

A Plea for God's Love to Transform us:

For His Glory and our Joy!!

Ephesians 3:14-21

Pastor Steve Treichler

March 27th, 2022 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)

For His Glory and our joy!

Passage:

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Message Notes:

Introduction – *“Why we study books of the Bible”*

Recap:

Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:11-22

Ephesians 3:1-13

Today's Message:

A Plea for God's Love to Transform us:

For His Glory and our Joy!!

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer for the Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-15

Prayer Request #1 – Just Jesus

Ephesians 3:16-17a

Prayer Request #2 – Brimming over with Christ's Love

Ephesians 3:17b-19

2 Corinthians 5:14

Romans 5:6-8

Romans 8:38-39

God is able to do it!

Ephesians 3:20

For His Glory and Our Joy

Ephesians 3:21

Gospel-Centered Application: Summary

You are loved.

You are fully known.

You are His.

Beloved.

Dear.

Scripture Passages used (New International Version)

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and

peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 3:1-13

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His 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, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

2 Corinthians 5:14

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

Romans 5:6-8

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 4:1

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received...

Quotes:

Paul uses a play on words in Greek, speaking of “families” or “peoples” with the term *patria*, which is related to *patēr* (“father”). Paul remarks that families derive their name from God the Father. Here Paul reflects the customs of his day wherein the family name continues through the father to his child. The connotation behind the act of naming in the Old Testament is one of power, as the one who names is over that which is named (cf. Isa 40:26).¹

That’s our inclination. But when you understand the Bible, the gospel stands all of that on its head. We’re able to say, “The Lord, who loves me so much he gave his only son for me, didn’t think I needed to pass that test.” Or, “He didn’t want me to have that girlfriend.” That gives us peace and the ability to life live. I don’t know what you’re going through or why you are going through it, but I know why it’s not—you are not suffering because God doesn’t love you. It can’t be that. One of my good friends is a golf pro and instructor. In 2015, he signed on to personally coach one of the top pros in the world. Under his tutelage, that golfer went from being ranked the seventy-eighth in the world to the twelfth.

My friend received more coaching contracts, and it looked like he had finally made it. We were so pumped. He had been working his tail off for years, and he finally made it because he signed this huge client. Three weeks before the Masters, his client fired him. My friend called me from the airport, and I asked how he was doing. He said, “That’s twenty-five thousand dollars I’m not going to make this year.” He said, “I’m disappointed, but I know it’s not because Jesus doesn’t love me. It can’t be that. It just can’t be that.” That’s the perspective I want you to see life through. Life’s hard. It’s not a romantic comedy that always has a happy ending. But whatever happens, it is not because God doesn’t love you. It can’t be that.

~ Ricky Jones, *Too Good To Be True: Christian Hope in a Hopeless Age* (Kindle Locations 213-223). Lioncrest Publishing. Kindle Edition.

The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope. This is the only kind of relationship that will really transform us. Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God’s saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us. The merciful commitment strengthens us to see the truth about ourselves and repent. The conviction and repentance moves us to cling to and rest in God’s mercy and grace.

¹ Lynn H. Cohick, [The Letter to the Ephesians](#), ed. Ned B. Stonehouse et al., New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2020), 228–229.

~ Timothy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* (p. 40). Penguin Group. Kindle Edition.

We all despise the man who demands continued assurance of his own virtue, intelligence or delightfulness; we despise still more the crowd of people round every dictator, every millionaire, every celebrity, who gratify that demand. Thus a picture, at once ludicrous and horrible, both of God and His worshippers, threatened to appear in my mind. The Psalms were especially troublesome in this way – ‘Praise the Lord,’ ‘O praise the Lord with me,’ ‘Praise Him.’ . . . Worse still was the statement put into God’s own mouth, ‘whoso offereth me thanks and praise, he honoureth me’ (50:23). It was hideously like saying, ‘What I most want is to be told that I am good and great.’ . . . It was extremely distressing...

The miserable idea that God should in any sense need, or crave for, our worship like a vain woman wanting compliments, or a vain author presenting his new books to people who never met or heard him, is implicitly answered by the words, ‘If I be hungry I will not tell *thee*’ (50:12). Even if such an absurd Deity could be conceived, He would hardly come to *us*, the lowest of rational creatures, to gratify His appetite. I don’t want my dog to bark approval of my books...” But the most obvious fact about praise -- whether of God or anything -- strangely escaped me. I thought of it in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise unless (sometimes even if) shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it. The world rings with praise -- lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game -- praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians and scholars...

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are, the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. . . .

The Scotch catechism says that man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.’ But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.

~ C. S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*, pp. 90-97





136
Praised by the LORD from Zion,
he who dwells in
Jerusalem!
Praise the LORD!

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

136 Give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures
forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures
forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures
forever.



blamed by the Lord
for who dwells
Jerusalem!
Praise the LORD!

His Steadfast Love Endures

136 Give thanks to
for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures
forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures
forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures
forever.





...blessed by the LORD
for who dwells
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Praise the LORD!

Steadfast Love Endures

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forever.

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Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
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Ephesians

The Bad News
+ The Good News
+ The Great News

The Gospel

THE BAD NEWS

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

THE GOOD NEWS

Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

THE GREAT NEWS

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:11-22 (esp 13-15)

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.

Ephesians 3:1-13 (esp vrs 1-6, 10-11)

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²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit

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to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus...

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Ephesians 3:14-21

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-21

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Prayer for the Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-15

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Prayer Request #1 - Just Jesus

Ephesians 3:16-17a

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Prayer Request #2 – Brimming over with Christ's Love

Ephesians 3:17b-19

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

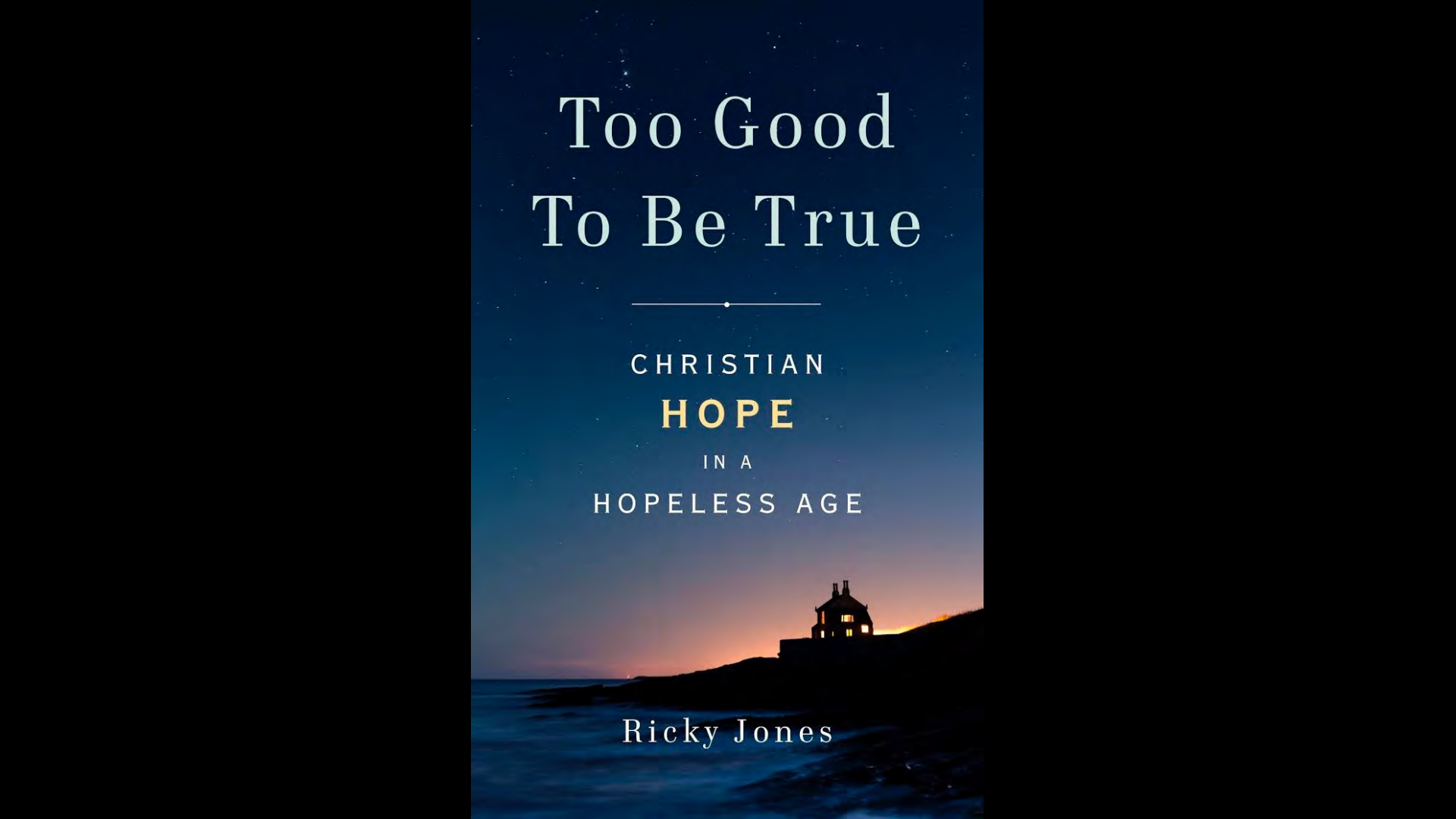
A man with curly brown hair and a beard is wearing a white t-shirt. The t-shirt has the text "Jesus loves you !" in a large, bold, black font. Below it, in a smaller, regular black font, is the text "Then again, he loves everybody." The man is standing against a plain white background.

Jesus loves you !

Then again, he loves everybody.



Why does Healthy Food taste bad?



Too Good To Be True

CHRISTIAN
HOPE
IN A
HOPELESS AGE

Ricky Jones

That's our inclination. But when you understand the Bible, the gospel stands all of that on its head. We're able to say, "The Lord, who loves me so much he gave his only son for me, didn't think I needed to pass that test." Or, "He didn't want me to have that girlfriend." That gives us peace and the ability to life live. I don't know what you're going through or why you are going through it, but I know why it's not — you are not suffering because God doesn't love you. It can't be that. One of my good friends is a golf pro and instructor. In 2015, he signed on to personally coach one of the top pros in the world. Under his tutelage, that golfer went from being ranked the seventy-eighth in the world to the twelfth.

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God is able to do it!

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