

To Him be Glory in the Church Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Paul has finished the first section of the book and he is so excited about God and all that He has done and will do for the Ephesians.

So as he closes this first half of the letter he pronounces a benediction. A wonderful benediction.

Almost all of Paul's writings are naturally divided into two sections. The first is doctrinal while the second is practical.

I don't really like those designations for it indicates there is nothing practical in the doctrinal section and nothing doctrinal is the practical section. But this is not so.

In Paul's writings this far we have been lifted into heavenly places and we have seen all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

How that God chose us in Christ before the world began.

How He predestined us to the adoption of children and blessed is with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

- I. Now to Him who is able
 - A. Only God is able
 - B. But He is able
 - 1. Throughout the Bible we see His power.
 - 2. We see his great works.
 - 3. The power of creation.
 - 4. The power of Jesus resurrection and ascension.
- II. To do exceedingly abundantly above
 - A. Paul uses a very special word.
 - B. The translation of the one Greek word is exceedingly abundantly above.
- III. All that we ask or think,
 - A. That is why is best for God to answer our prayers in His own way.
 - 1. The people prayed for deliverance so God raised a man, Gideon, who with three hundred was able to defeat tens of thousands.
- IV. According to the power that works in us

- A. The same power that brought us all the miracles is the power that works in us, it is the Holy Spirit.
 - B. And He continues to work in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.
- V. To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus
- A. The church is the congregation for that is the only meaning of the word.
 - B. In the same way that God received glory from the feeble servants that He used in the Old Testament so it is through the feeble congregations of God scattered all over the world that God has chosen to receive this glory.
 - C. This is why I try to do things through the church instead of on my own.
 - 1. Every church has it's problems.
 - 2. Every church has flaws.
 - 3. But yet it is still the pillar and ground of the truth.
 - 4. 1Ti 3:15 I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
 - D. And it is by or through Christ Jesus.
 - 1. For without Him we can do nothing, be nothing, accomplish nothing.
 - 2. But He has chosen to work through weaklings so that He would receive the glory.
- VI. To all generations, forever and ever.
- A. It amazes me that some people think that the true church ceased to exist in history and had to be restored
 - B. Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail against the church of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. And it never did and it never will.
- VII. Amen.
- A. When you agree with the speaker you say Amen.
 - B. When you understand what the speaker has said and you like it you say amen.
 - C. So if you don't understand then don't say anything.