

d.w. May 10, 1961 d.m.

"THE ABLENESS OF GOD"

Eph. 3:11

INTRODUCTION:

Mark Twain -- received an invitation to visit the Kaiser of Germany.

His daughter said, "Why Daddy; if this keeps up, you will be acquainted with everyone but God!"

Question tonight is, are you acquainted with the ableness of God? Do you believe in Him? Does He have business with you and you with him on a real and genuine awareness? Is He real to you?

Two things we challenge you with -- (1) Purpose. (2) Petitions.

I. PURPOSE

V. 11 - "Eternal purpose" - Greek word here for purpose is same word for "shewbread".

Tabernacle and Temple -- Holy Place a golden altar by prayer, intercession, of incense. One side a seven branch lampstand. Other side a table of shewbread.

Every Sabbath -- 12 loaves, wheat bread, 2 rows, 6 in one row and 6 in the other. Represented 12 Tribes - Israel.

"According to the purpose of the ages" -- Shewbread expressed something, could be seen -- exhibition -- Rom. 8:28.

Plan - pattern - purpose of redemption.

This purpose did not fail, lamb of God takes away the sins of the world.

God's purpose is opposed, there are false Gods. Men say "choose a religion to suit yourself."

Brown man may choose Hinduism.

Yellow man may choose Buddhism.

Black man may choose Animism.

Arab man may choose Mohammedan.

White man may choose Christianity.

Each can have his faith - own religion. That is opposite of the purpose and plan of the age. Bible says there is one God, one faith, one baptism.

Athens - Paul - "I see you are very superstitious, reverently religious. There were Gods everywhere." One could find more Gods than he could find men.

"As I went by, I saw an altar inscribed to the unknown God -- Beginning there Paul preached Jesus the purpose of the ages.

This purpose never changes. Which way does the James River flow -- you say from mountains in West to Atlantic East. If you pass over it in the air there are times it flows due North. Another place South. But ultimately and finally flows Eastward. So eternal purpose of God in Christ is often frustrated, turned, twisted but His purpose belongs to him and shall not fail.

II. PETITIONS FOR GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

V. 14 - "For this cause (He has just stated, the eternal purpose) on his knees -- a Roman prisoner - in stocks and in chains. He prays for the family of God.

V. 15 "Whole Family" means every branch of one family. <Heaven and earth>

We are called a family of God.

Passage brings to us (sweetness and precious) comfort incomparable -- for this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, the Father of the whole family in Heaven and earth.

This thrilled me -- we are all the family of God whether in Heaven or in earth.

God's family is not broken up by death.

God's family is not separated by death!

Household of God is complete and does not belong to one order down here and another up there.

Always one in the family of the Lord.

Family of God is not artificial and temporal. It is natural and eternal.

I am born into my family. My mother is my mother forever -- my father is my father forever -- my brother is my brother forever -- my sister is my sister forever.

Part are in Heaven -- part are on the earth.

We are all in lambs book of life.

We are all in the love of God.

We are all in the worship of God.

We are all in the service to God.

We are all in the joy.

We are all in one destiny.

V. 16 - Three request or petitions are made for the family.

First - Strength - V. 16.

Often see physical giants like John L. Sullivan, Jim Jeffries, strong on the outside but not strong on the inside.

William of Orange was so sick he could not stand up to command his Army.

Duke of Luxemburg so frail soldiers had to carry him about on a litter.

Fact is no man is whipped until he is whipped on inside.

"Be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

When our souls are empty -- our lives are fruitless.

Have you ever become discouraged because of your limitations and weaknesses?  
Ever feel that things are against you?

A clergyman of North England -- earnest worker but a sad failing -- ungovernable temper. Ruined his sermons during the week by exhibited temper. He was sincere.

Returning to his study on his knees -- "O God I lost my temper with that man. What is the use of my ministry? I had better give up in despair.)

One day -- terrible outburst of temper -- on knees. "O God must I go on like this? I have struggled against my temper, I have confessed, and I'm as bad as ever.

"O God teach me the secret of victory over this sin."

He had not prayed in this manner before. He had only ask God for forgiveness, then rise and struggle again!

This time he was honest, he asked God to teach him the secret of victory over the sin."

God taught him the secret by a dream -- in his study -- floor covered - dust and dirt. Looking from his study window he saw the Lord Jesus.

Ashamed - said, "Oh my Lord is coming and my house is filthy. I must clean my home before the Lord comes."

Taking a broom he began to sweep, raising a cloud of dust, nearly choked him. Exhausted, he laid down the broom.

A knock -- "Let me in."

No, redoubled his energy he began to sweep and soon laid the broom down utterly exhausted.

A voice -- "Let me in."

Slowly, lifted the latch and flung open the door. Lord looked upon him and used, Ezek. 36:35 -- "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you. . . from all your

filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you."

At breakfast, told his wife and son. The son said what is good for father will be good for me - "I will trust God to save me in the same way." That morning the clergyman's son opened his whole being to the Lord Jesus.

Mistake, the clergyman made was in trying to sweep his own heart.

Have you been trying to do that?

Jesus says, "Stop all of that; let me come in; I will cleanse Thee, I will deliver Thee from all Thy sins."

Indwelt by the Spirit of God -- moment by moment strengthening the inner man.

2  
4:17  
Second Singleness.

V. 17 - "That Christ may dwell in your heart by faith."

Not a day - hour - but live Thee all days, as long as we have breath. Devil's aim is to keep us ignorant about Christ. Satan tries to rob you of Salvation. Christ lives in the heart.

Dr. F. B. Meyer, said God desires the ring and all of the keys, which open each department of our lives. He does not want just one, or some, but all of them, in order that He might unlock every door, every drawer, and have entrance into every recess of our lives.

Many Christians fear to relinquish the keys to him, trembling at the thought of what he might have to remove when He enters to take control.

I surrender all  
All I have I give to Jesus,  
I surrender all.

3-

Third, Stability.

Paul's prayer a petition for strength and singleness and finally stability.

"That, ye being rooted and grounded in love."

Rooted like a tree in the soil -- a tap root goes down into the earth.

Put your roots deep into the soil of love. We passed through Whaleyville,

Va. - a strong wind had passed.

A China tree - a little wind will blow it over -- no tap root. This root holds the tree fast.

Paul prays "being rooted -- grounded -- stability."

V. 20 - Now unto him that is able -- exceeding abundantly - ableness of God - able to do - over beyond.

CONCLUSION:

Not because we are able.

Do you ever get on knees and say "I have been presumptuous. I have tried and tried.

You cannot ask too much of God.

Feeble as we are -- God can strengthen the inner man. Keep singleness of heart by faith, and offer us stability rooted in Him.

Dr. Dobson in lecture tonight - Story

Little Black Boy -

Age 5 -

Dying of Cancer

Wished for Bad Med

Talked "Bells Ringing" -

Next Day -

Mother then rocking, singing,

Still - (Bells Ringing) -

Dr. Dobson told mother he's been hallucinating all day like that

Talking of Bells -

No I told him when songs filled etc

Look up corner - (Bells of Heaven) ring for him!

Mother had taught him of the "ableness of God" even in Death -