

Text: Eph. 4:1, 7, 13.

1. As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
7. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.
13. ...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Theme: **“The Full Measure of His Grace”**

I love epigrams and aphorisms. An epigram is a short, terse poem or saying with a bit of wisdom at the end.

- Little strokes
Fell great oaks.
— [Benjamin Franklin](#)
- Hush little luxury, don't you cry –
You'll be a necessity bye-and-bye.
— The Book of Stelting

An aphorism expresses a general truth in a pithy statement.

- One man's trash is another man's treasure.
- “God helps those who help themselves.”
— [Benjamin Franklin](#)

So, what is this about Measuring anyway? Paul here uses the term to denote the proper amount or the limits of the provision of any thing. In the previous chapter of Ephesians, 3:19, Paul prays for the Ephesians, and therefore for us, that we **“may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”** Paul seems to be saying that God's point is to fill us full so that we may be like Jesus.

So, three measures

1) The Measure of God's Calling

God has called us to be Redeemed Persons. V.1

- a) That is not noted simply as avoiding the eternal punishment of hell, nor
- b) Just a conversion experience to which we look back, but
- c) Including the end of redemption, which is a Godly life:

Eph. 4:20-24.

A redeemed person has put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2) The Measure of God's Grace

God has provided for us to be Redeemed Persons v.7 Christ has measured Grace to the extent that His own fullness is measured. Christ is the measure **and** the measurer.

Remember Ben Franklin's:

“God helps those who help themselves?”

Perhaps, it is more true that God helps the helpless.

Grace, in Ephesians is used in at least three distinct ways:

- a) It is used to denote a miraculous, event-specific experience, an “Experience of Grace.”
- b) The Wesleys and other evangelical leaders used this term to denote the crisis experience in which a person is born again. It is also used to denote the experience in which one is sanctified wholly.
- c) It is used to denote the on-going work of God, the Holy Spirit as we live our lives day-by-day. It includes inspired insight, learning from Godly teachers, and personal experience of God's providential workings. This sort of grace is part of the spiritual environment that nurtures God's people as they grow.
- d) It is used to denote the capacity to make personal, disciplined choices that result in Godly living and Godly lives.
- e) This is God's call to personal exercise of our wills, resulting in a growing conformity of our wills to His, and resulting in practical, observable holy lives.

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

3) The Measure of God's Provision

- a) God's grace is immediate – that is, it is directly from God to His children, and it is here now. In II Cor. 12:9, God said to Paul, **“My grace is sufficient you, My strength is made perfect in weakness.”**
- b) Some have come with an inadequate notion of God's redemptive plan. Some have limited God's grace. Some have failed to apply your own will and discipline toward God's Fullness.