

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: July 16, 2023
Ephesians 3:1-21

1. Paul says in 3:1, "For this reason I..." What is the reason that he does what he does?
 - a. Because Christ died to bring those who were dead in their transgressions and sins (in which we used to live) to new life.
 - b. Because Christ took those who did not deserve salvation and turned them around to do the good works that were prepared in advance for them to do.
 - c. Because Christ reconciled Jew and Gentile, insiders and outsiders, into one people by faith in Him.
 - d. All that stuff from chapter 2.

2. What does Paul do?
 - a. I don't know, he kind of stops in the middle of the sentence and starts talking about something else (maybe this is where Pastor Pete learned to do that).
 - b. Uh...maybe that is why he has become an apostle...that's what he says "I became" in verse 7...but this also still might be the thing he stopped to tell us in the middle.
 - c. Verse 14 seems to continue the sentence by telling us that he kneels before the father and prays for God to strengthen us with power through his Spirit!

3. What does Paul stop in the middle of his sentence to remind his readers, according to verses 2-13?
 - a. About the administration of God's grace that was given to him for them.
 - b. That God gave him the revelation of the mystery His grace to the Gentiles.
 - c. He is reminding us of the reason that he is a prisoner.
 - d. He wants them to know that God's revelation to him was not because of his own worthiness, but because of God's grace to him.
 - e. He seems to explain how he came to be a prisoner of Christ and what it means that he is one for the sake of the Gentiles.
 - f. He stops because he realizes that reminding them of his imprisonment might not be an encouraging message, so he wants them to know that it is all worth it because of the freedom that he, along with those to whom he has preached the message, are now able to experience.

4. Out of what, according to verse 16, does Paul pray that God would strengthen us? _____
...And through what? _____

5. Do you sometimes feel discouraged and begin to feel weak? Yes_____ No_____ Explain. ____

6. What, according to verses 14-19, are the provisions that Paul prays will come from God for our weakness?
 - a. Being rooted and established in love.
 - b. Togetherness, with God's holy people.
 - c. Understanding of the depths of His love.
 - d. Being filled to the measure of all of the fullness of God.

7. In verses 20-21, Paul stops to give God glory but, as he does, he tells us something about what God can do. What does he say, at the beginning of verse 20, God can do? _____
How (or according to what), according to the end of verse 20, does he do it? _____

8. Don't you want somebody to pray this sort of prayer to this sort of God for you? _____
And don't you want that kind of God at work in the midst of your discouragement? _____