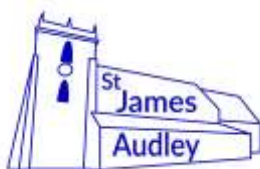




Picture courtesy of @Around Audley. Used with permission

# Bible Reading Notes

March 2022 – Revelation 1-5 & Ephesians 1-3



## How to use these Bible Reading Notes:

These Bible reading notes are a resource to help you feed on God's word a little and often and allow it to change your life. If you miss a day (or several!), don't feel guilty or try to catch up; just pick up wherever you left off – it doesn't matter if it's the wrong date.

Here are some tips on how to get the most out of this:

1. Find a time and place where you can be quiet but awake.  
Maybe set an alarm on your phone to remind you each day.
2. Pray. Ask God to help you understand what he says.
3. Use the notes to help you think about the Bible passage (use a good translation of the Bible like the NIV).
  - *'Read' tells you which verses to read.*
  - *'Apply' shows how it affects you.*
  - *'Pray' suggests ways to talk to God about it.*
4. Pray about what you have read.
5. Look for a chance to share with someone what God has been saying to you.

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*These notes are easy to install on most phones or tablets.  
Install the 'PrayerMate' App and you'll find it under 'Add Subject →  
Biblical prayers & devotions → Real Food.'  
If you have any problems, email [info@prayermate.net](mailto:info@prayermate.net).*

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

*'Seeing the Unseen'*

We're looking at Revelation 1-5 for the first half of this month. Revelation is a book that most normal Christians find frankly a bit scary. But today we're going to see that it's worth reading and taking to heart!

Read Revelation 1v1-3

In Revelation God shows us spiritual truths that we need to know but can't see with our physical eyes. He uses vivid pictures.

- Who is this revelation from? Who is it for?
- Why was it given?
- Why bother with it? (v3)

This book was written to help Christians to keep going with Jesus when under very difficult circumstances.

Apply

- How does knowing that God gave us his word for our good affect the way we read his word?

Pray

Thank God that he loves us enough to give us this revelation for our good, so we can be ready for Jesus to return.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

*'Dear Christians... from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'*

Revelation was originally a letter, and like any ancient letter it started by introducing its writer. In this case, as well as John, it's God!

Read Revelation 1v4-8

- Who this letter from? (v4-5 - "from" is used three times)
- What things are said about God, Jesus and the Spirit?\* Spot as many as you can.

This letter is from a God who is: eternal and perfect (v4); faithful, risen, ruling and saving (v5); Father and glorious (v6); and whose coming is going to make the whole earth weep (v7). He is a God who is the first and last word (v8).

\*Note: We'll see a lot of numbers in Revelation. They're pictures, not literal. 7 represents God and perfection, so the 7 spirits/Sevenfold Spirit is very likely the perfect Spirit – the Holy Spirit!

Apply

- When you're in difficult circumstances, what difference will remembering this kind of God have?

Pray

Give glory to the God who has always existed and who came to save us. Thank him for being such an amazing God!

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

*'One like the Son of Man'*

Jesus was a 1<sup>st</sup> century Galilean carpenter. Not a description that inspires much awe in the minds of most people. But in God's eyes, he looks different...

Read Revelation 1v9-11

- What will be our experience if we follow Jesus?

Read Revelation 1v12-20

Revelation gets us to see spiritual truths by encouraging us to imagine these things;

- Try and imagine Jesus as he is described here. What kind of impact does he have on you? Is your reaction like John's? (v17)
- Where is Jesus, in the vision? What does this represent? (v13, 20)

Jesus is among his churches (the lampstands). This amazing, powerful Jesus is with us!

Apply

- How does the picture of Jesus given us in this chapter help us as we try to endure as Christians – in hard work, in persecution or in the battle with sin?

Pray

Pray that Jesus would give you a bigger vision of how amazing he is.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

*'First love'*

Imagine you got a letter from Jesus! Seven churches in Revelation do get one – and he means business.

Read Revelation 2v1-7

- What is good about this church?
- What is bad? Does this surprise you, after seeing what was good?
- What will Jesus do if they don't repent?\*
- What will Jesus give to the one who is victorious?

\*Note: Remember, the lampstands represent the churches. So to lose your lampstand is for your church to die! Also, we don't know exactly who the Nicolaitans in verse 6 were, but we know they were false teachers (Revelation 2:15).

Apply

- The tree of life makes people live forever. Is that attractive to you? Does it make you want to obey Jesus here?

Pray

Thank God for the possibility of living forever in a perfect place with him.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March

*'Rich through poverty'*

Most of the letter in Revelation 1-3 have a similar shape, but this one breaks the mould – because Jesus has nothing bad to say!

Read Revelation 2v8-11

- Were things easy for Christians in Smyrna? Why?
- How does what Jesus says about himself help the Christians in Smyrna be faithful even to death? What reward does he promise? (v8, 10)
- Whose side are the persecutors on? (v9)

These Christians might look poor and pathetic, abandoned by God, while the Jews persecuting them looked wealthy and blessed. But, as Revelation often shows us, things aren't as they seem!

Apply

Jesus wants the Christians in Smyrna to remember that they're not dumb to face the first death to avoid the second death (Hell).

- How might that help us when we're suffering for following Jesus – suffering that comes because we're giving up a favourite sin, or facing scorn from our family or friends, or working hard for Jesus?

Pray

“Please, Lord Jesus, help me to see that nothing that I can give up in this life will ever make me poor.”

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

*'Faithfulness and false teaching'*

The church in Pergamum is another mixture of good things and bad things. We'll see what Jesus has to say to encourage them to keep going in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Read Revelation 2v12-17

- How are Christians in Pergamum doing right by Jesus?
- What's going wrong? Does the mixture surprise you?
- How does Jesus fight immorality and false teaching? (v16)

When God gives someone a new name, it's always a special blessing – (for example, in Genesis, God gave both Abram and Jacob new names – Abraham & Israel). Their names were connected with a promise of a great future.

Apply

It is easy to assume that because we're faithful in one area, we're okay in others.

- How does this passage challenge you in that? Are there particular areas you need to repent of today?

Pray

Ask Jesus to fight with his word against all sin in your life. Pray that he would help you to keep going for him in all areas, even under difficult circumstances.



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March

*'Eyes like blazing fire'*

Through all of these letters, we see Jesus as the one who knows everything that goes on in his churches. You can't hide from him.

Read Revelation 2v18-26

- How is this church doing well? Are they on the right track? (v19)
- What have they failed to do? (v20, 22)
- What is Jesus' response? What will that show the churches about him? (v23)
- What reward is there for holding on to what we have? (v26-28)

Jesus' eyes see everything (v18), but all he's asking of Christians is to hold on to what we have – the truth! We don't need any special knowledge to be good Christians, just what God has given.

Apply

- Jesus has "all authority in heaven and earth." (Matthew 28v18) How do you feel about the fact that he'll share it with us?

Pray

"Father, thank you that Jesus knows everything. Thank you that he just wants me to hold on to the truth that I have about him. Help me to be victorious in that."

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

*'Dead church walking'*

There are some churches with a great reputation. They might be thought of as vibrant, or youthful, or even faithful. But they might also be rotten to the core.

Read Revelation 3v1-6

- What did people think of the church in Sardis? (v1)
- What did Jesus think about it? Is there any hope? (v2-3)
- What is the reward for those who keep themselves pure? (v4-5)

Imagine Jesus saying the words: "Father, this is my faithful servant. Even in a rotten church, he stuck with me." What an honour that would be.

Apply

In this passage there are two different types of reputation – a good reputation with people, and Jesus claiming you before God for his own.

- How can we be more concerned for Jesus' opinion rather than what others' think?

Pray

Ask God that your church would be a real, living church, looking for Jesus' praise, not people's praise.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

*'Open doors'*

The church in Philadelphia is another church where Jesus brings no criticism, just bags of encouragement.

Read Revelation 3v7-13

The church in Philadelphia were under Jewish persecution and were feeling discouraged.

- How does Jesus encourage them? What has he done for them already? What will he do for them in future?
- What will be the reward for the Philadelphian Christians if they keep going? (v12)

To be a pillar in the temple means to be part of a place where God lives, to be as close to God as anyone can be.

Apply

- Do you feel like the pressure to give up on God is too much? How can these words from Jesus help you hold on?

Pray

Pray that the realities described in v7 & v11-12 would spur you on to live for Jesus today.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March

*'Knock knock'*

Vomiting is never a pleasant experience, is it? Well, shocking as it may be, Jesus here is talking to a church that makes him gag.

Read Revelation 3v14-22

- The word “spit” in v16 is the Greek for “vomit”. But why is Jesus’ reaction to this church so extreme? What’s wrong with them? (v15)
- What do the Laodicean Christians think of themselves? Does Jesus agree? (v16-18)
- Does Jesus hate this church? Why is he so harsh with them? (v19)

Jesus doesn’t want this church, or any of his churches, to die. He wants them to be in friendship with him again.

Apply

All five churches that Jesus rebukes are still churches, and still get encouragements and promises from him that help them keep going in hard times.

- How does this encourage you when you struggle with sin?

Pray

“Thank you that you love me Jesus. Thank you that means you won’t let me be destroyed by my own sin, but you rebuke and discipline me. Help me to see my sin clearly and to repent.”

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March

*'The control room'*

The universe might sometimes look chaotic, swinging here and there like a fairground ride. But today we get to see who's really pulling the levers of the universe.

Read Revelation 4v1-6a

Remember, Revelation wants us to show us spiritual realities we can't see with our eyes. Try and imagine what is being described in these verses...

- What is your impression of the whole scene? What words might we use to describe it?
- Look at v6a. Are seas normally still and clear as glass?

This is a throne room where there is no chaos. God is in total control.

Apply

- Our world often looks pretty chaotic, and we may suffer in that chaos. How might it help us to know that, behind it all there is someone so powerful in control?

Pray

Pray that God would help this vision of him to fill your mind so that you can remember what kind of God you serve.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March

*'The Creator'*

Today, we see how all living beings are designed to relate to God.

Read Revelation 4v6b-11

The four creatures in v6b-8 probably represent all the living creatures God has made – each animal is top/dominant in its species (lion – wild animals, man – humans, ox – domestic animals, eagle – birds). Here we see them before God's throne. The fact that they are covered in eyes (v6b, 8) symbolises that they are acting as God's agents. But they also show us something else...

- What are the animals doing? (v8-9)
- What does this show about how all created life should relate to God?

Next we see 24 elders (v10) – the number 12 is important in the Bible, usually representing God's people. So the 24 elders are likely to be a picture of the 12 tribes of Israel in the Old Testament plus the 12 Apostles in the New Testament. Together they represent all of God's people from all history.

- What are they doing? So how do God's people relate to him? (v11-12)

Apply

God is eternal. And he alone created all other life and sustains it/keeps it going.

- How does this affect the way you think about your life today?

A Christian's purpose is to praise and worship God. (v11)

- How can you give glory and honour and power to God in your life today? This week?

Pray

Praise God that he is worthy of all worship and honour. Pray that you would treat him as God today.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

*'No 'Plan B''*

We're still in the heavenly throne room as we read these verses.  
But what's in God's hand?

Read Revelation 5v1-5

- What is God holding? (v1)
- What's the problem? (v2-4)

The scroll seems to have God's plan to judge the world and put everything right on it. But no-one can open it! Does that mean the world is doomed to stay as it is?

\*Note: We've seen before that 7 is the number of God/perfection. So this scroll is as sealed as it can get!

- What's the solution? Who can open it? (v5)

John was worried the world would stay as it is, but Jesus has triumphed – he will bring about God's plan.

Apply

- How much do you long for God to judge, to put everything that's wrong, right, and to bring about the new creation?  
Would you weep if that plan was in danger?

Pray

Ask God that he would help you to realise more how Jesus is the only one who can unlock his plan for the future, and to praise him for it.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March

*'The lion and the lamb'*

Have you ever heard a voice that you thought was from someone, but were surprised to see came from someone else? John has a surprise when he sees something very different to what he heard.

Read Revelation 5v5

- Who is able to open the scroll? What animal is he compared to?

Read Revelation 5v6-14

- What does John turn around and see? (v6-8 – Have a go at trying to imagine the scene.)
- Who else does John see and hear? (v8, 11, 13)
- What are they saying, and who are they saying it about? (v9-10, 12, 13)
- What does all this show us about Jesus' death on the cross? (v9, 12) How big is it in God's plan?

Apply

- Do you think of Jesus, crucified, as being the one before whom all creation stands amazed?
- How might remembering this help you when people make fun of Christianity?

Pray

“Father, thank you that Jesus has made your plan possible by dying for us, to save us. Thank you that he is amazing.”



Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

*'In Ephesus, in Christ'*

Welcome to Ephesians, a letter written to show us our place in God's plan for the world. We're studying it through Lent.

Read Ephesians 1v1-2

This letter is written by Paul the Apostle of Christ – meaning he speaks with the authority of King Jesus.

- What three things does Paul say about Christ?
- How does Paul describe the Christians he is writing to? (v 1)

A phrase here is key to Ephesians (and to the Christian life): “in Christ”. These believers are in Ephesus physically; they are in Christ spiritually – they are united to Christ the way a branch is united to a vine, a wife is united to her husband, and a body is united to its head. Everything that is true of Jesus in his human nature is now also true of us.

Apply

- Do you ever think of yourself as being in Christ?
- How does it feel to know that, if you're a Christian, you are united to him?

Pray

“Father, thank you for uniting me to Christ through faith. Amen.”

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March

*'Every spiritual blessing'*

Yesterday we saw that a believer's place in God's plan is that we are spiritually in Christ. What difference does that make?

Read Ephesians 1v3-6

- What has God blessed us with? (v 3)
- Where are those blessings? (v 3)
- What examples of blessings does he mention? (v 4-6)

*"What gift of grace is Jesus our Redeemer; there is no more for heaven now to give!"*

Every spiritual blessing God has for us is in Christ, and we are in Christ! That includes being chosen by God, made holy in his sight, adopted as his children, loved by him – what an amazing place we have!

Apply

- Which of these blessings most makes you want to praise God?
- Which of these blessings do you find hardest to believe is really yours?

Pray

Praise God for the spiritual blessings he has given you in Christ. Pray that you might know that they are really yours.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

*'Lavish grace'*

God has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ, and Paul is in the middle of listing them to motivate us to praise God.

Read Ephesians 1v7-8a

- What spiritual blessings has God given us here?
- Which words emphasise God's generosity to us?

In Christ, God has dealt with our biggest problem – our sins. He does this through Jesus' blood – his sacrificial death that paid for our sins. And he doesn't just reluctantly put up with us – he lavishly and richly pours out his grace on sinners.

Apply

How can these verses help you...

- ...when you're feeling guilty?
- ...when you don't feel excited about Jesus?
- ...when you feel envious of what someone else has?

Pray

"Father, I praise you for redeeming me, for forgiving me, for richly lavishing your kindness on me through Christ. Amen."

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March

*'God's plan for the world'*

These verses tell us God's plan for the world – a plan that we get to play a significant part in.

Read Ephesians 1v8b-10

- What mystery (or secret) has God made known to us?
- What is God's plan for the world (v 10)?

"God's will" is his plan for the world, and one of the blessings we have in Christ is that he has told us his plan! God wants to unite everything in Christ – that should make our ears prick up, because we know that we are already united to Christ. So Christians are at the centre of God's plans for the entire universe.

Apply

- Has this changed what you think God's plan for the world is all about?
- Has this changed what you think about where the world is heading (and about where you're heading)?

Pray

Praise God for letting you in on his plan. If you're trusting Jesus, praise him that you are already united to Christ through trusting in him. If you're not yet trusting Jesus, ask God to help you get to know Jesus better.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

*'The praise of his glory' (1)*

I have lots of plans for the future, but most of them never happen. Yesterday we heard about God's plan for the universe – this is a plan that we can be sure will happen:

Read Ephesians 1v11-12

- What spiritual blessings has God given us here? (v 11)
- How do these verses help reassure us that God's plan will actually happen?
- What is the ultimate goal of God's plan? (v 12)

Apply

God is sovereign – which means that no-one can stop him from doing what he wants, from putting his plan into action. So we can be absolutely certain that he will one day unite everything in Jesus, making everything the way Jesus wants.

- When do you need to hold on to this certainty?
- How does knowing God's plan will happen help you when your plans don't happen?

Pray

Praise God for his glory – that his plan is so wonderful and that he has the power to turn his plan into reality.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March

*'The praise of his glory' (2)*

We can be sure of God's plan to unite everything in Christ. Today we hear about how we can be sure of our place in God's plan.

Read Ephesians 1v13-14

- How can we be sure that we are already united in Christ? (v 13)
- How can we be sure of our future inheritance? (v 14)
- What is God's ultimate goal in all of this? (v 14)

Apply

When you heard and believed the gospel, you were included in Christ – put right at the centre of God's eternal plan to unite everything in Christ. God's Spirit is like a name-tag showing you belong to God, and like a deposit guaranteeing that God will give you every other blessing he's promised.

- How do these verses help you to be sure you belong to God forever?
- How do these verses motivate you to praise God?

Pray

Praise God for including you in Christ and giving you his Spirit.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March

*'Knowing God better'*

The great African theologian Augustine prayed: *"You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."* In other words, the greatest gift God can give us is himself.

Read Ephesians 1v15-17

- What does Paul give thanks to God for? (v 15-16)
- What does Paul ask God for? (v 17)

What a great prayer – that God would give us his Spirit so that we can know him better! We pray for what we long for: Paul tells us what he prays for us because he wants us to long for this more than anything else, and to pray for this too – that we would grow in our relationship with God.

Apply

- Is this what you want most now?
- Is this what you pray for yourself most?
- If there is something else you want more than God, what is it and how does it compare with God?

Pray

Pray this prayer for yourself and other Christians you know.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

*'Knowing God's blessings'*

Imagine a billionaire who doesn't know they are rich and still lives as if they're poor. They don't need more money; they need to know how much they already have. That's our position in Christ – we don't need any more blessings from God; we need to know how blessed we are already.

Read Ephesians 1v18-23

- What three blessings does Paul pray that we might know in our hearts? (v 18-19)
- What does Paul tell us about God's power that is at work for us? (v 20-23)

Apply

Paul doesn't pray that God would give us extra blessings in addition to Christ, but that we would know how blessed we are in Christ (we already have every spiritual blessing, 1v3).

- Are your feelings led more by how blessed you are in Christ, or by other things that happen to you?
- Are you praying that you would know them?

Pray

Ask God that you would know these blessings in your heart.



Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

*'From death to life'*

Paul has been telling Christians about our place in God's plan – we are in Christ, as part of God's plan to unite everything in Christ. Now he tells us more about why being in Christ matters.

Read Ephesians 2v1-5

- How does Paul describe us without Jesus? (v 1-3)
- What has God done to change that? (v 4-5)
- What motivated God to intervene in this way? (v 4-5)

Without Jesus we are dead, like cut flowers, nice looking but cut off from the source of life. There was no way we could save ourselves or make ourselves alive. But God has made us alive with Christ – what love, what mercy, what grace!

Apply

- How do these verses humble you and show you could never have saved yourself?
- How do these verses magnify God's kindness to you in saving you through Jesus?

Pray

Praise God for his love, his mercy, his grace to you. Pray for non-Christians you know to discover this too.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

*'From chains to thrones'*

Yesterday we heard that we were slaves – to the world, to our own sinful desires, and even to Satan. But being in Christ changes all that...

Read Ephesians 2v6-7

- Where are you now seated? (v 6)
- What is God's purpose in seating you there? (v 7)

Apply

Being in Christ means everything that is true of Jesus in his humanity is also true of you. Jesus is seated on a throne at God's right hand – so spiritually you are too! And God plans to show you more and more of his grace – for all eternity he will never run out of ways to thrill you with his kindness!

- Do you find it easy to believe this is true of you?
- What would change if you did think of yourself this way?
- How can you remind yourself of these truths?

Pray

Praise God for lifting you from slavery to reigning with Christ. Pray that you might believe that is who you are.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

*'From God to us'*

Being in Christ is clearly a big deal – can we take any credit for being in Christ?

Read Ephesians 2v8-10

- What are we saved by? (v 8)
- What are we not saved by? (v 9)
- So what place do good works have? (v 10)

Apply

We can take no credit for any of our salvation – we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone. But saving faith is never alone – we are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works. In fact, even the good works we do are gifts to us from God, prepared by him for us to do.

- How do these verses help us not to boast?
- How do these verses motivate you to praise God?
- How do these verses motivate you to do good works?

Pray

Praise God that he has saved you entirely by his grace. Pray that today you will do the good works he has prepared for you, without becoming proud.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March

*'Brought near'*

Have you ever felt like an outsider? How wonderful to be welcomed into a friendship group, a family, or a home! How much more wonderful to be welcomed in by God!

Read Ephesians 2v11-13

- How does Paul describe Gentiles (non-Jews) without Jesus? (v 12)
- What difference has being in Christ made? (v 13)

Every non-Jew was a spiritual outsider: separate from God's people, excluded, without God. But Jesus has brought us near!

Apply

The command here is to "remember" (v 11, 12).

- How does remembering what we were like without Jesus...
  - ...make us more humble?
  - ...motivate us to love God more?
- What can you do to remember this more?

Pray

Praise God that he has brought you near to himself.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

*'Peace on earth'*

There is so much division in our world – between family members, colleagues, nations, races, political viewpoints, classes and more. The root of all these divisions is that we are divided from God. Where can we find peace and unity?

Read Ephesians 2v14-18

- How has Jesus made peace between people who were divided? (v 14-16)
- How has Jesus made peace between us and God? (v 16-18)

Apply

In Christ God has united us with himself and with each other (as the first part of his plan to unite all things in Christ). So when you find loving and being united with other Christians hard, remember that you both need Jesus, you are both reconciled to God through Jesus, you both heard Jesus' gospel of peace and you both have access to God in prayer.

- Which Christians are you finding it hard to be fully united with?
- How do these truths help you to keep making every effort to be united with them?

Pray

Pray for your church to be free from division

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March

*'A place to belong'*

We all long to belong. We need to be part of something bigger than ourselves – and there is nothing more glorious to belong to than God's temple, the home he lives in.

Read Ephesians 2v19-22

We are built together as stones in God's temple.

- In God's temple...
  - Who is the foundation? (v 20)
  - Who is the cornerstone? (v 20)
  - Who is the owner and inhabitant? (v 21-22)

Apply

Our place in God's plan is that we are like stones in his own home that he is building. He dwells in us by his Spirit and displays his glory to the world through his church. He's already moved in without waiting for the building to be finished!

- How does this motivate a church to be united?
- How does this motivate a church to be holy?

Pray

Praise God that you belong to his family and his home.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

*'Paul's place in God's plan'*

Paul explains his special role as an apostle of Christ.

Read Ephesians 3v1-9

Paul calls the gospel a mystery – he doesn't mean that we can't understand it; he means that it is a secret we can only find out if God makes it known.

- How did Paul come to know this mystery? (v 2-5)
- What is the content of this mystery? (v 6)
- What does God want Paul to do with this mystery? (v 7-9)

Apply

Paul's place in God's plan is to be told this secret (that God is uniting all people in Christ) and to tell it to the nations. He's like God's publicist.

- How do these verses help us to pay attention to Paul?
- Who do you want to tell about God's plan?

Pray

Thank God for making his plan for the world an open secret. Pray that he will give you opportunities to tell the people you thought of about Jesus and God's plan for the world.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March

*'Our place in God's plan'*

So far we've heard that God's plan is to unite all things in Christ. And Christians are already united in Christ now. So why has God given us this advanced place in his plan?

Read Ephesians 3v10-13

- How is God's wisdom being made known? (v 10)
- Who is God's wisdom being made known to? (v 10)

Apply

The church is like God's show home on a new estate – a visible demonstration of what the whole thing will be like, that attracts people to want to be a part of it. We are God's plan on display to other people and to the spiritual rulers: our little stories can tell God's big story! You and your church are central to God's plan for the world.

- How does this encourage you?
- How does this show you the importance of church?
- The challenge: If you and your church are a show home, will there be any buyers?

Pray

Pray that your church would gloriously display God's plan.



Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March

*'Filled to the measure'*

The church has a big calling – to be God's show home, to display now what his plan for the whole world will look like. So we must pray big prayers for ourselves and our churches!

Read Ephesians 3v14-21

- What does Paul pray God would use his power to do? (v 16-17)
- What difference does Paul pray that knowing God's love would make? (v 17-19)
- Why can we pray big prayers confidently? (v 20-21)

Apply

God's plan is that the church would be his home, so Paul prays his Spirit would be at home in our hearts. God's plan is to fill his church with himself, so Paul prays we would be filled to the measure. God's plan is to display his glory through his church, so Paul prays he would be glorified.

- Is this what you want for yourself and your church?
- Is this what you pray for yourself and your church?

Pray

Pray these verses for yourself and other Christians you know.