

Ephesians 14-01-12b

We pick up our study now in Ephesians chapter 3 where the Apostle Paul is Explaining why Our lives are important what it is that God is doing right now in this Dispensation of the fullness of times.

It isn't just a happy sort of theological Whimsy That we are in him and that we have all of these things in him.

It's got a purpose.

When you get into discussions as some of us do from time to time with your materialistic secularistic humanistic atheistic scientific unbelief type people and they say oh what a happy accident it is that the universe just Happened to form in a way That was conducive to the accidental and random production of life and it's absurd.

But of course they are unwilling to admit the absurdity because if you grant the absurdity you're forced to the only other viable conclusion which is that This is a program that booted up on some hardware that somebody designed and somebody wrote the program.

They keep talking about artificial intelligence and how you know People that play video games those of you that play these video games and you got your little computer generated population in there used to be You know, there would be kind of like the old mechanical Games where there's a cowboy, you know stick them up Stick them up and you could shoot the guy and put him out of action these old arcade things from the You know hundred years ago.

Well now and with every passing year the AI the artificial intelligence that's built into Video games computer games First-person shooters and others is more and more sophisticated.

It is more and more able to emulate not only in appearance And in detail, but also in behavior Real life.

So instead of mindless drones, you know running around like ducks on a on a At the circus or at the at the fair, you know There's little tin ducks that go back and forth and you ping them with a with a rifle they that's the early forms of Opponents in video games and you point your laser at them and bang down they go Now they talk they Respond to your behavior. They will act differently They learn they get more powerful all kinds of things because people are sitting around writing routines that confer a kind of intelligence to these these virtual Individuals these virtual entities now Bear with me 50 years from now just Forget about eschatology for a moment. Just assume human history will go forward another 50 years another 100 years What is projected to take place as computers advance and they get into nanotechnology and microcomputing and? computers made out of molecules and being incredibly fast and incredibly powerful and At the same time drawing very little energy and Advances in software design and so on you could imagine that there will come a time when and certainly Atheist secular humanist people think that's what happened with us molecules got together Archaeo bacteria formed blue algae formed they just got the whole Replication and reproduction Descent with modification thing going which is neo-darwinian evolution and because of the DNA molecule and it's copying with errors You get variations and these variations compete and the superior variation wins out and then it goes on and more and more and more and more Presto, here's people okay.

We're just little biological hardware and software that appeared out of these the interaction of these forces that are that are governed by the laws of nature. We don't know where the laws came from, but it doesn't really matter here. We are so obviously they conspired to produce us. Okay, fine.

Somebody who has that assumption? Just let's just take it for the sake of argument that that happened. It is easy for them to conclude within the world that we create in in Binary or they may even advance beyond binary. It's always occurred to me that if we can do so much with just ones and zeros, what would happen if we started using? Higher states what what if a if any individual position in memory instead of just being a 1 or a 0? What if it could be a 2 or a 3 and you would have? Exponentially greater computing power because everything right now is running on the simplest on-off. Well, what if it's on? Comatose slightly more awake or on. And and I think this will come.

Here's the point. Soon in the mind of secular material scientific minded people who don't know anything about God there will come a time when computers will create life forms in the virtual environment like us that will be self-aware. They can make decisions that can look around in their virtual universe, which has been programmed for them. Anybody that plays video games, you know what? I'm talking about these little entities that you interact with in the computer-generated world get smarter and smarter, more lifelike, quote-unquote, year by year by year version by version they get better. Well project that forward 500 years which is what people do. Well someday we'll we'll want to take ourselves out of these bodies and stick ourselves in the virtual environment where we can live forever as long as nobody pulls the plug I guess.

Here's the point those people inside that virtual environment can sample their environment, study their environment. They can become little scientists and start looking at the world in which they live and they can go back and say, you know, this program has been running for a while. I can see the history the record of what has taken place and as I look back and look back and look back they might be able to actually discern and observe and work back to the point at which the program was started or perhaps even to where the operating system was booted, but they can't see beyond that, right? And yet there is a beyond that we know it because we are outside the computer.

We built the computer we wrote the software we created the IO systems the all of the you know, we built the RAM we put in the drives we did all of the things to make this computer and we wrote the operating system that allows the thing to boot up and know that it's a computer and not a toaster or a microwave. We created programming languages and we created subroutines and whole libraries of things that conspire together to create an environment where this game can run then we wrote the game and we created the characters and we assigned them attributes and gave them possibilities limited them to a certain environment get told how much how far they can go and no farther what they can do and what they can't do. We did the whole thing. We are God to that environment and people in that environment are never going to be able to comprehend and somebody in the environment could say well, you know everything here you know runs in a certain way and originates in a certain way and somebody says well, you know what if we wrote a letter to the artificially intelligent entities and said look, I'm your programmer I just want you to know, you know, I live outside your world I created your world and I created you and everything that you are about and they start discussing this this note that we put into the into the game and they say I don't believe there's a programmer. I think this

environment has always run or I think it invented itself. I think I think it just appeared out of the laws that define it. I think those very laws it sort of pulled itself up by its own bootstraps, so to speak and I don't believe there's a programmer.

How easy would it be for you as the programmer to prove to your little game guy that you really exist? About the only way you could hope to do it would be to somehow get into the game to do the what was that movie where the guy got in the game? One of the one of one of one of see hunts sons Jeff Bridges the Jeff Bridges. What was it Tron? Yeah, Tron. Jeff Bridges goes into the game, right and he can talk about what's on the outside. Well, this is all metaphorical.

It's Analogous to what God does with us and you can see the absurdity of arguments that say well You haven't solved the problem by claiming God created everything because who created God where did God come from? Well, that's like an AI Person saying well, where did the humans come from? You know, they had to have come from something just like we did. Well, it's a completely separate question that isn't really even pertinent to that Environment, but this is the kind of argument that gets Gets given now, here's what God has done for us if I can press that analogy just a bit If you could bring someone out of the game They fantasized about this in Star Trek somebody walks off the holodeck and exists in the world of the real quote-unquote real captain Janeway or Picard or whoever they you know, somebody gets off the holodeck and starts living in the real world And oh my gosh, what have we done? well in a sense God has given to us the privilege He has created us in a limited environment that is well below his level and he has granted to us in eternal life a promotion out of that into his realm that's Why his realm outside? The environment is called heaven heaven is everything that this universe is not It is what exists outside and it's not a single thing. It's not a single place It is primarily defined as the dwelling place of God It is the realm of God and those creatures that God built that already live in that realm and It is possible in my mind that the reason there is a third heaven is Because the first heaven is our Pardon the expression our game space our environment that God has created above and outside that is the realm If you think about computer-generated people outside their realm is our realm and then outside our realm is God's realm well move that up one we are the people in the environment and outside that is the realm of the angels and Beyond the realm of the angels outside and enveloping that is God's realm first heaven second heaven Third heaven I think it is easier for us to understand and one of the reasons the Bible says knowledge will increase is because we now have Computers it gives us an insight.

It gives us a paradigm or an analogy to help us understand What is really going on? Our universe is inside the universe where the angels dwell, which I think is inside the universe where God himself dwells and if nothing else that awareness reminds us in one sense of how small we are and in another sense of how important we are and how aware God is of our existence because he absolutely Created and programmed every single thing about us and If you boot it once you can boot it again and He can transfer us out of that first heaven into the second heaven space which is miraculous and It is really us. It's not a copy of us. It's not a Similar thing to us it is us He can absolutely move us from one place to the other because he built both of those worlds This is what eternal life is.

This is what? Salvation is by way of analogy in my mind It helps to understand what it is God has done and what it is. The Lord Jesus did when he came down Emptied himself took on the form of a servant and came in the likeness of men. He came down to help us Believe In these higher and greater realities.

We could not come up to where he was. He had to come down to where we are and be the word incarnate the word made flesh and In him because he has come down to us when he goes back to where he came from We can go with him. He brings he comes down out of heaven Shout voice of the archangel Trump of God the dead in Christ rise those who are alive and remain are caught up together with him and We are promoted we are advanced we are entered into a realm that we can only dimly conceive of much less imagine or picture but We live in an age where these things are more easily modeled where they're more easily pictured for us When in history has anybody been able to conceive of creating an artificial environment in which a sentient individual could dwell We we are that generation Well, so what in? Ephesians chapter 3 Paul says I pray that God will grant you verse 16 according to the riches of his glory in accordance with By the standard of This is a proportional kind of thing.

How much understanding are we going to get? Well, it is proportional to the riches of his glory This is going to be a pretty great understanding not a tenuous dim short-lived understanding if it is Kata according to the standard of his glory his glory is great. Therefore our understanding will be great He prays that God will grant according to the riches of his glory for us to be strengthened with might Through his spirit in the inner man who Really has as their life's ambition to be weak in the inner man Who says you know, I really wish I wasn't so strong. I wish I was weak.

I wish I was incapable I wish I was just mush. I wish I was just a puddle on the floor for people to walk through I don't want to be strong. I don't want to be capable.

I don't want to be self-sufficient. I just want to be a passive glop Running slowly down the wall somebody through, you know, the baby through jello on the wall. That's me I just want to run down and be a puddle on the floor I mean, this is just nuts right who doesn't want to be strengthened with might in the inner man Everybody does this is a human ambition people spend their lives looking for fulfillment looking for strength looking for self-sufficiency This is why people want to go into areas where they think they're being denied access You have different groups that say and and believe me sometimes it is wrong that people are denied It was wrong to tell black people.

They couldn't drink at a drinking fountain or sit anywhere They want to on public transportation. It was just flat-out wrong. There's no way you can justify it at all.

It is wrong Here's what's wrong. If you're a black person and you say I am NOT going to be happy Until I can sit anywhere. I want and drink anywhere.

I want that's a mistake because happiness does not consist in Not being restricted Happiness consists in being strengthened with might in the inner man if I am strong with might in my inner man. I am NOT unduly bothered by such things and Everybody is restricted Sometimes it is formal and overt Obvious and heinous as in the case of oppression of people for race other times. It is subtle You can be employed by someone who knows that you cannot afford to lose your job that you don't have any option but to work there and They can increase your hours and they can increase your tasks and they can mentally Pressure you and even abuse you and insult you and take advantage of you in all kinds of ways Ways that even slaves in the ancient world were not taken advantage of they can do this and That is a restriction and nobody's going to be able to pass a law To end it they try they say well, you know minimum hours minimum wage overtime this that and the other trust me The human mind is so devious.

They can always find a way around it and There are people who get this little tin pot dictator complex and when they have power over someone they're not their form of fulfillment is exercising it and making other people miserable and And taking advantage of people for their own gain You work and struggle and research and come up with an idea They run up to their boss with it claim it as their own get promoted get a bonus and a raise and you're down there In the trenches still trying to wipe the sweat off your brow. It's the corruption and the Denigration of being fallen and living in a fallen world To be strengthened with might in the inner man is To be fulfilled it is to be balanced. It is to be in control of your own happiness And it is not conditioned and it is not defined and it is not limited by Circumstances because it's the inner man Strengthened with might in the inner not the outer man.

I want to be overclothed. I want to be I Want to be Iron Man. I want to put on a suit and I'll be strengthened with might in the outer man So that I can go, you know, do whatever I want fly and punch through walls defeat great monstrous opponents strengthened with might in the outer man Strengthened with in the inner man.

The great thing is it is the inner man that is going to be promoted out of this universe Right. It is the inner man that is going forward. It is the inner man that is going to exist in that realm We are promised where where we already hold citizenship.

Our citizenship is in heaven That is in the realm above and beyond this material universe. We look around the universe We say how could be anything beyond it? It's so big an Amoeba in a drop of pond water would be saying the same thing. Well, this water is so fast I mean I couldn't swim across this thing and in a hundred years And as it curves I I think I'm getting to the edge and I keep going around and it just seems infinite my little drop of pond water is Just infinite here.

Look at all the complexity and the diversity in this drop of pond water we look at a drop of pond water and in Scorn at pond water. I mean there's billions of drops of pond water There's tens and hundreds of billions of amoebas and paramecia and all other kinds of little back It's insignificant to us because we live in a realm above and beyond pond water Wouldn't it be great for an amoeba if he had any sentience at all to be promised that he could Live in our world. That's what God has done for us and that's just about the magnitude of it Our citizenship is in heaven as it tells us in Philippians 3 so To be strengthened with might in the inner man is to be prepared for that promotion If all I have is amoeba skills if you put the brain of an amoeba in a human being How useful is he going to be? Or you know you have to get a little further say it's a mouse It's a little lab rat lab rat has learned to navigate his little maze and push the right button to get his food And he's a really good lab rat.

We say you know what you're such a great lab rat I'm gonna promote you to be a human and so we take his little rat brain and Pop it into a ready-made human body and Wake the guy up and rat brain is now a human Well, he's gonna be a pathetic Member of the of society right because all he knows how to do is act like a rat He's gonna run around looking for buttons to push to see if food will come out He's gonna be standing in front of the coke machine. Just punch punch punch nothing happening It's gonna wait for a candy bar to drop looking for a payday or a Mars bar Because all he knows is push the button get the food push the button get the food push the button get the food Go around the corner. Maybe there's a different machine with a different

button on it He's just gonna be wandering around going going down corridors punching buttons on machines trying to he's completely Incapable of experiencing and enjoying life as a human.

Do you see my point? Do you see Paul's point to be strengthened with might in the inner man is Preparation to live in the world that is above this one You're not gonna hack it there. If you're a rat in the maze doing what rats in mazes do we need knowledge? We need experience. We need insight.

We need understanding We need to be strengthened with might in the inner man so that when God grants this tremendous promise of promotion We can avail ourselves of it. We will be useful. We will be aware.

We'll know what we're looking at in this hugely multidimensionally advanced Environment that God has promised to take us to. I go to prepare a place for you Outside this universe. Are you ready to live there? Will you know what to do when you get there? Paul says, for this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family where in Heaven and in Earth is named named. Your name my name Gabriel Ariel Michael all of the other angels are named. We are moving from here to there. How do we get ready?

You and I do not want to be rats in a human world. We must be strengthened with might in the inner man. This is why you're sitting here listening to the mellifluous sound of my voice. This is why you've got your Bible open to Ephesians chapter 3. It is essential that this information get into us, that now while we are still at this level We learn and grasp and are Prepared for life with Christ in the world that is to come when we quote-unquote go to heaven. That's where our citizenship is. This level of knowledge negotiating this world like unbelievers do is totally inadequate for the life that is to come. If all you get If you have hope only in this world you are of all men most miserable why because when you get promoted you're not going to know anything. You'll be laying in a hospital bed with fluids dripping into you and people bringing you everything trying to keep you alive because you got no skills. We don't want that. Paul says I pray that he would grant you according to the riches of his glory.

This is Exponentially greater than any glory in this earth. It partakes of the eternal it partakes of the divine and we need that in us. We need to accumulate it and nurture it and expand it now because the Lord Jesus Christ is coming and there is no more Getting ready when he comes. We have we either will be ready or we won't. Grant you according to the riches of his glory verse 16 to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man. And this is the big Advantage this is the pipeline to the world that is to come is God's Holy Spirit. It is a tunnel from Heaven from the eternal from God himself down into our universe and into our world and into our soul to impart The divine to impart that which partakes of this bigger environment. So that verse 17 Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Now again, I'm Horribly pressing the analogy. But if you had a game character in your video environment there And if you could establish communication with that little aware individual and It's you and him He's the one maybe there's 10 or 12 of them in there. But he's the one that when you wrote the note on the virtual wall and said look there is a world beyond yours I would love to bring you into it I've got to do some things first. But there's a point at which I can promote you out and I can put your consciousness your experience Everything you are and everything you know I've got a body that exists in my world that I have prepared for you. And I am going to bring your consciousness out of the game into my world. Do you believe me and the

little guy says yes? You say look You it'll blow your mind if I just bring you right now. I need to give you some information. I need to Have you know what I know? and You need to understand You need to to partake of what I am and what I know so that you will be ready for this. This is Christ in you by faith. In my mind, it's an analogy That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

He is real enough that we are motivated to prepare ourself for life with him and We don't think it's a fantasy. We don't think it's a waste of time to learn it. It's necessary information He has to be so real You and I talking to this little person inside our transient program area in our computer He would have to believe in us enough to take on board and treat as real Information that he can't validate because he's not in our universe yet He's got to take it on faith That I am real though what I'm telling him is real and when he does that enables me to prepare and qualify and Ready that individual to come out and be where I am, right? I This is in my mind what the Lord Jesus is doing for us Christ can dwell in our hearts by faith He is at the right hand of the Father.

He is two universes away from us He's in the third heaven But he is preparing a place for us in That place where we can go and dwell and out of God's heaven is going to come that place that is beyond this universe It's still not the throne room and dwelling place of God himself. God has his own Private space in which he alone dwells But the realm of his glorified creatures is well above this one and that's where we are trying to go So we need to be strengthened in our inner man. The Lord Jesus Christ needs to be dwelling in there Strengthening our inner man.

That's kind of what the strength is is his presence his knowledge his power his example So that verse 18 and this is where we struggle this is where language almost fails us To comprehend with all the saints. What is the width and length and depth and height? Now what is width length depth and height define? space environment bigness It isn't small it's big and this length and depth and breadth and height transcends this universe Enormously, and if we're going to understand it, we've got to be Receiving what Jesus Christ is telling us by faith Him being so real that it is as though he dwells in our hearts by faith That enables us to comprehend with length depth and height and Ultimately, it's not just environmental preparation. It is attitude preparation.

It is thought motive intention character that is being built to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge in that kind of a Oxymoron. To know what passes knowledge Isn't this like the immovable force meets the or the immovable object meets the irresistible force. How can you know what is past knowing? How can you know what's past knowing he says I pray that you will know the love of Christ which exceeds knowledge transcends knowledge. How is that possible? In this universe in this life in this temporal sphere It's unknowable. But when that knowledge comes from the transcendent sphere the transcendent heavenly divine Sphere it is knowable that you may know you have the knowledge to exist in the world that is to come in The present when such knowledge is unknowable it's knowable because of the intrusion the the pipeline of God the Holy Spirit the Presence and power of Christ Himself within us we can know what is otherwise unknowable. That's what Paul is talking about here. It's big it is heaven heavenly citizenship. This is our destination, and we have to realize that if we get caught up in the details of the game and Forget what the purpose and what the destination is this is why atheists and secular humanist materialists love their own Model because they don't have to be responsible for anything, and they don't have to have to acknowledge any sort of purpose. It's

purposeless. You ask him well, what where do you find meaning in your life? Well? I just want to be a friend to man I just want to be altruistic, and you know I'd like to perpetuate the human race and that Why? What do you care when you're dead what happened in the human race is near as I can tell is a horrible cancerous blight on the ecosphere our presence is is Marring the planet if you if all these yo-yos are me to believe we've done everything from burn up the ozone to heat up the planet and Covered over with concrete and trash and we've got landfills and chemicals and we've killed off the honeybees and the fish and the bears and the wolves and the We're nothing but a cancer and a blight. The best thing that could happen to this planet is for mankind to disappear and your goal Is to make sure mankind lasts forever and expands out to the planets and ruins all of them as well. That's a great ambition. We're awful. We're the worst thing that ever happened and and your life's goal is to perpetuate it after you yourself are gone. You're a moron. Your life's ambition if you really care about you know the the future of beneficial things ought to be to destroy mankind. You ought to be some mad scientist cooking up the biggest atomic bomb ever and blow us off the planet. Get some kind of Noah's ark that's got everything on it except Noah. It's It's mindless it's moronic a purposeless universe means nothing. We know because we are believers and God the Holy Spirit imparts to us the knowledge of God's purpose and That purpose ought to define and condition everything we do. That's why this letter is written.

That's why it talks to us about heavenly citizenship. That's why Paul prays that we will come to know because it has to make a difference. We can't fiddle away this time running around in small circles looking for the next button to push to get the food to come out or The drugs you've read stories about the rats you know that find the the cocaine button and all they do is sit and push it push it push it push it until they die. And that's what happens with so much of the human race. God has given us This wonderful Avenue of promotion through Christ in him. We enter into and partake of things that are so far beyond what we could ask or think it's it has not entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him and we have got to get this through our little rat brain skulls and start learning and cultivating the presence of Christ by faith so that we may be able to comprehend with all of the sanctified ones the height and length and depth and breadth. To know the love of Christ that passes understanding That passes knowledge to be filled with all the fullness of God. We can't be filled with all the fullness of God here, but we can when we are promoted. We can be prepared to be filled we can get ready to be filled. But the fullness of God is going to hit us when the voice of the archangel sounds and the trump of God Blasts and we are raised and we are united with Jesus Christ. This world will eventually Get the exit button clicked. Are you sure you want to quit the game? Yes, and it is gone. Because we are now in an entirely higher existence Through Christ in him you have all things. He is the fullness that fills everything in every way when we can remember this in our hour-by-hour day-by-day existence and Have an eye on the future in everything that we do realize that everything we do is preparation for that jump that Promotion that advance it will transform us and Christ will be at home in our hearts. Christ in you is the hope of glory. Father thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for this passage and the privileges that it communicates to us the unimaginably great Benefits that you have seen fit in your wisdom and in your purpose To confer on us and bestow on us through Jesus Christ. We pray that we can live our lives in a way that reflects his glory and prepares us to enter into and reflect his glory In the ages to come. We pray it in Jesus name.

Amen