

Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make men see this mystery which from the beginning hath been hid in God . . . according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would grant you that ye being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend this mystery, that ye may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height of that love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled with all the fulness of God.

V

This is a brief and very imperfect résumé of the first half of the epistle. Even if there were time and if I understood him better, still it is not easy to express simply Paul's thought in this passage. For his thoughts are deep. And his style is difficult. One of his sentences here is like a German sentence, twelve verses long. But perhaps I have given you at least some little glimpse of the awe and wonder and adoring gratitude with which he contemplates this mystery of God's eternal purpose of love to men, before the time when "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Now, in the beginning of the fourth chapter he turns straight to the practical conclusion from all this, with the word "therefore." Because of God's love and God's care and God's thought for you from the eternities.

"*Therefore* I, Paul, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." That is the keynote of his appeal.

Therefore, keep unbroken the unity of the Church, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.

Therefore walk no longer as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind. Put off the old man which waxeth corrupt and put on the new man which after God hath been created in righteousness and true holiness.