

**Title: Dispensing Grace**

**Pastor: Fred May**

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**Ephesians 3:2 (AMP)**

<sup>2</sup>Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace (His unmerited favor) that was entrusted to me [to dispense to you] for your benefit,

**1: Stewardship of Love**

**1.a: the astounding privilege and honour**

**Ephesians 3:6-8 (AMP)**

<sup>6</sup>[It is this:] that the Gentiles are now to be fellow heirs [with the Jews], members of the same body and joint partakers [sharing] in the same divine promise in Christ through [their acceptance of] the glad tidings (the Gospel). <sup>7</sup>Of this [Gospel] I was made a minister according to the gift of God's free grace (undeserved favor) which was bestowed on me by the exercise (the working in all its effectiveness) of His power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God's consecrated people), this grace (favor, privilege) was granted and graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out],

**1.b: GOD's unique blessings**

**Matthew 10:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

**2. Attracting Opposites - Love's Law**

**2.a: my prison does not make me a prisoner!**

**Ephesians 3:13 (AMP)**

<sup>13</sup>So I ask you not to lose heart [not to faint or become despondent through fear] at what I am suffering in your behalf. [Rather glory in it] for it is an honor to you

**2.b: unsolicited, unexpected, undeserved**

**Luke 6:27-28 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup>But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

**Matthew 5:44-45 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

### 3. Prisoner of Love

#### 3.a: freed of the trouble of choice

##### **Ephesians 3:1,13 (AMP)**

<sup>1</sup>FOR THIS reason [<sup>a</sup>because I preached that you are thus built up together], I, Paul, [am] the prisoner of Jesus the Christ [<sup>b</sup>for the sake and on behalf of you Gentiles—  
<sup>13</sup>So I ask you not to lose heart [not to faint or become despondent through fear] at what I am suffering in your behalf. [Rather glory in it] for it is an honor to you.

#### 3.b: The BURDEN

##### **Habakkuk 1:1-2 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup>The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.<sup>2</sup>Oh Lord, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" and You will not save.

- The Burden: The weight of GOD's heart - the impartation of that which HE's passionately concerned about.
- The Yoke - the discipline of, and submission to purposeful relationship.

##### **Zechariah 12:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> The [<sup>a</sup>]burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,

- the weight of GOD's heart

#### 3.c: The yoke and the burden

##### **Matthew 11:30 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- the blessing of responsibility and privilege

##### **Galatians 6:2,5 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup>Bear ...one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. <sup>5</sup>For each man shall bear his own burden.

### 4: Cosmic Authority - in prayer

#### 4.a: our lives have far- reaching impact

##### **Ephesians 3:10, 20-21 (AMP)**

<sup>10</sup>[The purpose is] that through the church the [<sup>a</sup>]complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

<sup>20</sup>Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]-- <sup>21</sup>To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

#### **4.b: our war and victories of love and grace**

##### **Isaiah 54:15-17 (AMP)**

<sup>15</sup>Behold, they may gather together and stir up strife, but it is not from Me. Whoever stirs up strife against you shall fall and surrender to you. <sup>16</sup>Behold, I have created the smith who blows on the fire of coals and who produces a weapon for its purpose; and I have created the devastator to destroy. <sup>17</sup>But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness or the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the Lord.

#### **4.c:**

##### **Isaiah 10:27**

It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.