

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist: Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

APRIL 9, 2006

Breadth, Length, Depth, and Height

Ephesians 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (KJV)

At first glance of this passage my mathematical mind kicks in and tries to visualize what Paul is saying using three dimensional thinking. I know that an object like a box or most buildings have three measurements; length, depth and height, like those referred to in this verse but the “breadth” citation had my brain attempting to fathom a fourth dimension or something like it.

Many have endeavored to comprehend the concept of the fourth dimension. One of the efforts to help people envision this realm

was a book that takes its readers to an imaginary place called “Flatland.” The main character in the story is Square, who lives in Flatland, a two dimensional country that encounters a stranger that appears to be a circle but in reality is a sphere. Sphere illuminates the accepted wisdom of Square by introducing him to a three dimensional world not just a single plane existence. Near the end of Edwin A. Abbott's novel *Flatland, a Romance of Many Dimensions* (1884), a curious conversation occurs between these two shapes, a two-dimensional Square and a three-dimensional Sphere:

Sphere. But where is the land of Four Dimensions?

Square. I know not: but doubtless my teacher knows.

Sphere. Not I. There is no such land. The very idea of it is utterly inconceivable.

Square. Not inconceivable, my Lord, to me, and therefore still less inconceivable to my Master. Nay, I despair not that, even here, in this region of Three Dimensions, your Lordship's art may make the Fourth Dimension visible to me.

Even though this train of thought about the fourth dimension is intriguing I believe it jumps the tracks in regards to the Bible text under examination. Sometimes our analytical minds get stuck in the mire, like what do the color of the four horses in the book of Revelation have reference to? When we read the entirety of Ephesians chapter three the theme of the passage leaps out: The

mystery that was hidden from the beginning is now revealed. God's eternal purpose has been made known by the Spirit by the workings of the Christ, that the Jew and Gentile both “*have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him (Vs 12)*.” It is when we are “*strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man*” (Vs 16) and “*rooted and grounded in love*” (Vs 17) that we begin to fully rationalize the magnitude “*the love of Christ which passes knowledge*” (Vs 19).

An explanation of the four expressions

Paul addresses the church in *Eph. 2:22* as “*a dwelling place of God in the Spirit*” and when we consider being “*filled with all the fullness of God*” (*Eph. 3:19*) we better understand the corresponding terms in knowing the “*love of Christ which passes knowledge*” (*Eph. 3:19*).

Breadth: This refers to the whole of the vast mystery of free salvation in Christ for all regardless of their race, culture, social status, education, or wealth.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Length: From everlasting to everlasting. This is the extent to which Christ would go in expressing His love for man.

Eph 3:21 to Him be glory in the church

by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever
and ever.

Depth: Profound wisdom which no creature can fathom.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Height: The lofty position of God and of the glory of Christ and also implying beyond the reach of any foe.

Eph 4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

1 Peter 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

CONCLUSION

Instead of constraining the love of God through His son in mere geometric shapes the apostle is referring to the great vastness and fullness of divine goodness in utilizing these four words. The combination of these terms expresses the magnificence of the love of Christ.

When you consider the immense straining of our brains pondering the fourth dimension, try considering the workings of the Lord.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

- Bruce J. Dehut

Seven Things That Will Help You Grow Spiritually

by the late Grover Stevens

1. LIVE AND WORK to reach others each day as if you knew that the world was going to come to an end on Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (*Read 2 Peter 3:1-12*)

2. BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC about the church and its services as you would if there were an overflowing crowd each time. Think of the interest, anticipation and excitement of an overflow crowd! (*Read John 1:37-42*)

3. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. Make a list of the things for which you are thankful to God and thank Him for them one by one as you pray in your closet. (*Read Phlp 4:6*)

4. MAKE AND MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS, and pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them (*Read James 5:16*)

5. QUIET TIME. Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you love God, you want to spend some time with alone with Him. (*Read Psalm 1:2 & Matt. 6:6-8*)

6. VISIT SOMEONE EACH WEEK. Some member you do not know very well, or a sick person, or a visitor to the services, or a weak member who needs encouragement, or a prospective Christian. (*Read Matt. 25:36 & James 1:27*)

7. REACH ANOTHER PERSON. Conduct a Bible Class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend, the preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to. (*Read Matt. 5:13-16*)

(Passages added by BJD)

SUPPOSE

"Suppose," said I, that you should see
A small boy tumble from a tree;
How would you tell that tale to me?"

"Why, dad," said he, "I'd simply say,
I saw a fellow hurt today,
And two men carried him away."

"How many injured would there be," I asked?
"Just one, of course," said he,
"The boy who tumbled from the tree."

"No, no," I answered him,
"That fall which hurt the lad brought pain to
all,
Who knew and loved that youngster small."

"His mother wept, his father sighed,
His brothers and sisters cried,
And all his friends were hurt inside."

"Remember this your whole life through;
Whatever may cause hurt to you
Must hurt us all who love you too."

"You cannot live your life alone;
We suffer with your slightest groan
And make your pain and grief our own."

"If you should do one shameful thing,
You would not bear alone the sting;
We'd spend our years in suffering."

"How many hurt?" We cannot state.
There never falls a blow of fate
But countless people feel its weight."

- Edgar A. Guest

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **J.O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Brandon Yates**

Opening Prayer: **Doug Smith**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner
Chris Runner
Mark Sharp
Robert Hood**

Scripture Reading: **Brian Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Jim Covington**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **J.O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Brandon Yates**

Opening Prayer: **Mark Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner**

Closing Prayer: **Jr. Stout**