

## Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. What are you a prisoner of, i.e., what is your life dedicated to, career, family, girlfriend/boyfriend, fitness, church, Bible study, entertainment, spirituality, ..., or the Lord Jesus Christ, 3:1, 13?
2. If God gives you an assignment, He'll give you everything you need to carry it out, 3:2-4, 7.
3. There are things mankind will never know unless God reveals them to us, 3:5, 9.
4. The Gospel grants us complete and thorough access to Christ, everything He is and everything He has, 3:6, 16-19.
5. Do you know that you can be the worst human being on the planet, yet God will give you access to His inner most being and invite you to work alongside Him so that He can accomplishing His will for your life and thereby bless you, 3:8-12?
6. All of human history and this entire universe gets its purpose and meaning from the Lord Jesus Christ, i.e., the beginning and end of EVERYTHING is Jesus Christ, 3:9, 11. So if you want to know who God is, the ultimate meaning of life, or any specific aspect of life—work, love, marriage, or how to get out of a troublesome situation like addiction—Jesus has the answer.
7. Satan and his minions are powerful but they are infinitely inferior to God's wisdom and power, 3:10-11.
8. If you trust what Jesus tells you, then you will be bold in life and absolutely confident in your ability to access God and His power, 3:12.
9. Jesus' Father is our Father: as much as Jesus is God's Son, we are God's sons and daughters, 3:14-15.
10. You don't have to rely on your own strength nor look for strength in anything outside yourself in order to deal with this difficult life. Instead, you have an endless supply of strength at your disposal, i.e., God's Spirit will give you all the inner strength you will ever need, 3:16.
11. If you trust that Jesus will always be with you, He will be, 3:17.
12. It's one thing to read the ultimate work on a person's life; this would give you endless, perhaps even intimate, details about them. This would give you one-dimensional knowledge (perhaps even two-dimensional), but it's still only knowledge about them. It's quite another thing to live and breathe with someone, i.e., to move into their house and walk, talk, eat, and live alongside them. That's what God the Father and God the Son want for us: they want us to experience life with them personally and intimately. They want us to know the love of Christ not just three-dimensionally, but four-dimensionally! This is how thoroughly God wants us to experience Him so that we feel His presence in every corner of our lives, so that we get to know Him and He gets to know us inside and out, 3:14-19. What would that do for us, the next time panic set in? The next time we worried about something? The next time we were confused about what to do?

### Ephesians Chapter 3

13. Have you ever longed to overcome the sin that so easily defeats you, to live a life where no matter what happens, no matter how terrible life gets, you're able to go on with a smile on your face because you and God are in constant contact, like having a best friend who always has the answers? Do you know that this wish can be yours? God is able to do beyond what you could ever ask or imagine and this wish is His wish too, 3:16-20. In fact, His power to do all this is already in you, 3:20.
14. Since God can (and is offering to) make our lives peaceful, joyous, and fulfilling, doesn't it then make sense that all our glory should go to God who's given us ALL that He is through His Son Jesus Christ, 3:16-20, 21?
15. You can be a total loser or outcast by the world's standards, yet God will use you to do something incredible, something beyond your ability, beyond anything that you could ever ask or imagine, and to top it off, you'll succeed. And if you encounter opposition along the way, even if you're imprisoned, you'll look at your suffering with purpose and gladness because you know that God was, is, and will always be with you. You will take comfort in knowing that God's power and love were always surrounding you, letting you know that if you were knocked to the ground, His strength would pick you up. If you felt abandoned and hopeless, His love would be there to remind you that you were always loved, especially during your worst failures, 3:1-21.