

## October Men's Table Talk

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### Paul in his most inner revealing: New Revised Standard From Ephesians 3

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,<sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

### Now from the New Jerusalem Bible

*This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.*

Colossians 2:6 *Since you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him, be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving. Make sure that no one captivates you with the empty lure of a 'philosophy' of the kind that human beings hand on, based on the principles of this world and not on Christ.*

1. Knowledge of God can only come from God. God must reveal his self - the Godself - when we speak of god we must ask: "are we truly speaking of God"?
  - a. The ancient word for this is "Logos"
  - b. God's word is God expressing
2. God himself must affirm his objective nature. All human exploration into God is subjective - biased.
3. God's word is God himself - God's Word. That Word is not simply words about God - but revelation of the Godself.
4. The god of the gospel is a hidden God who reveals himself through or behind a veil. This mystery declares that God is found within - this hiddenness is for our sakes. We come to see through his . . .
5. This metaphor is not a barrier God shouts over. The veil is his method to declare his being - his nature.
6. God first creates a creature capable of knowing - of receiving. He elects to be in relationship with this creature - he then gives himself. God speaks.
7. God is to be found in "truth" through his own revelation - he wills - determines the method and the depth of the disclosure.
8. God's word is God's word. Men create philosophy or religion - all are subjective and colored - biased.