

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

*I always thought love was shaped like a heart,
but it's actually shaped like a cross. —Anon.*

Let's read verses 18 and 19 of today's Bible passage: *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.*

Notice the apostle Paul's reference to the shape and size of Christ's love for us. He mentions the *width* and *length* of the love of Christ, along with its *height* and *depth* (one and the same; the height is the same as the depth).

Clearly, Paul is searching for a three-dimensional metaphor to illustrate the vastness of the love of Christ.

There are many possible geometric shapes he could've mentioned. Triangles (scalene, isosceles, equilateral, acute-angled, obtuse-angled, right-angled; four-sided shapes such as a square, rectangle, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezium or kite; or a circle, sphere, cone or cylinder. Or course there are many more geometric shapes.

But which one does justice to the "shape" or "size" of the love of Christ?

None of them! The love of Christ "surpasses" human knowledge. Yet Paul prays that we might "know" what "surpasses knowledge."

How can you know what is unknowable?

He means that it is possible to *experience* what is *unknowable and unexplainable*.

We experience many things that we cannot explain and which is beyond our particular ability to understand — things like electricity, computers, airplanes, smartphones and so on. *Some* people obviously have this knowledge, but perhaps not most of us.

In the same way, we might not know, understand or explain the love of Christ, but we know it is real because we have experienced it!

Let us be thankful for the love of Christ!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you loved me before I was even conscious of your love. You loved me when you knew the worst about me. Thank you for your boundless love. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*


Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 10-12
Monday: Micah 5-7
Tuesday: Nahum 1-3
Wednesday: 2 Kings 20-21
Thursday: Zephaniah 1-3
Friday: Habakkuk 1-3
Saturday: Psalms 79-81

TRUE OR FALSE?

This puzzle is based on the story of Ruth. Answer each statement, **True** or **False**. Circle the letter in the correct answer column. Write each circled letter on the numbered lines below to discover the secret word. We've done the first one for you.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi was Ruth's mother.	D	R
2. Ruth was a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wanted Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah was Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lived in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz was a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth made a living begging at the gates of Bethlehem.	X	E
8. Boaz instructed his workers to leave extra grain in the field for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invited Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz was related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

WORD ASSOCIATION

Below are lists of words. To solve each puzzle, think of a single word that goes with each to form a compound word (or word pair that functions as a compound word). For example, if the given words are *volley, field* and *bearing*, then the answer would be *ball*, because the word *ball* can be added to each of the other words to form *volleyball, ballfield* and *ball bearing*.

Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
BACK	BLEU	STOOL
SHORT	CAKE	POWDER
WATCH	COTTAGE	BALL

R

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Solution to TRUE or FALSE: 1R, 2T, 3N, 4S, 5C, 6U, 7E, 8E, 9R, 10I, 11R, 12O. Secret word: RESURRECTION. **Solution to WORD ASSOCIATION:** Set 1 — Stop (backstop, shortstop, stopwatch); Set 2 — Cheese (bleu cheese, cheesecake, cottage cheese); Set 3 — Foot (footstool, foot powder, football).