

Ephesians

more than a makeover

God's Long-Term Plan For The Church

Ephesians 3:1-13

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Ephesians 3:1-13 “For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of His power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”



I. We can choose to embrace God's Ultimate Plan

The ultimate mission of the church is the clear and accurate display of God's wisdom.

When we agree with God about the destination, then we are able to match our lives with His pace and priorities.

A. We are not the primary audience

Ephesians 3:10 "So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

- God's plan is for the Church to showcase His wisdom, not only to humans but to all spiritual beings—angels, demons, and rulers in the heavenly realms.

II. Paul's ministry

A. Illuminating the mystery

- The inclusion of Gentiles into God's family—"fellow heirs" in the promises of Christ. **v. 6**
- To the Jewish people, it seemed God's plan centered on Israel. But the true plan was for all nations to be united in Christ.

God's plan wasn't simply to make the whole world look and function like Israel; His plan is to put groups of people who look and function like Jesus throughout the whole world.

- God making a "New Man" out of any man, woman, or child right where they are is supernatural! **Eph 2:14-15**

B. Preaching Christ to the Gentiles

- When the Church begins to look and function as the body of Jesus in their own language, culture, context, and circumstances - the angels and demons witness one more layer of God's glorious wisdom.

Unfortunately, 40% of people groups in the world have a lower likelihood of hearing the Gospel than our chances of winning the Powerball.

Practical Ways to Preach the Riches of Christ to the Nations

1. Preach the riches of Christ to yourself and live as if they are true

Live as if those riches are real and effective -

- Be a contributing member of a local church
- Actively fight the sin you can see in your own life

2. Pray for the unreached and unengaged to receive the Gospel

- joshuaproject.net
- prayercast.com
- Creative Access Prayer Teams

If you need help getting started, I would love to chat: missions@graceky.org

3. Preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the other Gentiles right in front of you

- Your immediate family
- Neighbors, classmates, coworkers
- International students and immigrants