

Week 5, Ephesians: Chapter 3 (Vs 1-21)

V1-4 Paul tells the churches in Ephesus that God had _____ picked Paul to be a light to the Gentiles. Furthermore, Paul says that God had revealed to him a mysterious, or previously _____ part of God's plan for humanity.

V5 Paul says that God had kept this purpose and plan _____ for many generations and only now has revealed it to the apostles and prophets.

V6 Paul says that the mysterious plan is that God would allow the **Gentiles - Non-Jews - Foreigners** to enter into this same great salvation of the Jews!

V7-8 Again, Paul tells them that God has given him this _____ task of _____ the news that the Gentiles nations can also become children of God.

V9 Again, Paul tells them that God has given him the job of making known a mysterious plan, that had been kept hidden from the beginning... But this time Paul expounds on a slightly different plan, not simply a plan that would allow _____ to be grafted into the family of God... but a plan that is much _____!

V10-11 *God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We have heard about this greater plan earlier in Chapters 2.

Eph 2:7 *So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.*

-Remember that we discovered that God did all of this for us in salvation so that in eternity future God could use his mercy shown to us as a _____ **display** of his incredible kindness.

-Remember that we discovered that would become the **painting** of God... we would become the **tapestry** that he is using to paint his glory across the universe for eternity.

God in his infinite wisdom planned to show mercy to humanity in such a way that he might paint a picture of his mercy, grace and power through those who believe... and that He would be admired and glorified by it for all of eternity. Believers have now become the masterpiece of God. And our obedience continues to add to the eternal picture that God is displaying of himself in eternity future.

V10-11 God had a plan from eternity past regarding our salvation. This plan was that God would not leave sinful people in their fallen state... but that in his love and mercy He would make a way of salvation. The plan was that Christ would come to redeem a fallen people. Part of the plan was to allow even the most despised people and nations to enter into this salvation.

And through the **wise planning of the cross** and **through the riches of his grace** shown to all people who believe... God was going to use his **wisdom, power** and **mercy**, given to the church at salvation, as a way **to show off his glory** to all the unseen powers and spiritual beings **for all of eternity**.

In this plan is where we learn of our purpose as human beings...

We exist by God and for God. And our purpose is to discover our unique role in the overarching plan of God to manifest his power, his wisdom, his love, his grace and his glory to the world in this lifetime and the next.

God's plan is for us, the church, **to manifest his power, his wisdom, his love, his grace and his glory...**

- (1) To eternally _____ the evil and wicked spirit beings who follow _____ ... and to provide vindication to God's holy name.
- (2) To eternally _____ the holy and submissive spirit beings who _____ God... and to provide praise and awe to God's holy name.

What this means is staggering. What this means is life altering. What this means is purpose for living...

This means that every thought, attitude and every action we have is eternal and weighty.

This means that everything we do is either adding to the tapestry of God's eternal glory or it is adding to the tapestry of self, misery, _____ and _____.

This means that every act of **obedience** is adding to the _____ of all evil powers and providing a new _____ into the understanding of & praise of the stunning glory of God...

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31)

We can eat, drink, walk, talk in ways that show our submission to the will, design and instruction of God for those very things... Or we can eat, drink, walk, talk in ways that show our allegiance to self, comfort, and our own ideas of how to get the most out of doing those things.

How do you eat, drink, walk, talk, watch, drive, spend or play to the glory of God?

You eat in such a way that shows that your eating is _____ to the will & design of God for human eating. You eat in such a way that shows that by your eating you **believe** that God's design for eating is not only right, but **BEST!** You do all that you do in such a way that shows that by your behavior you believe that God's design for living is not only right, and best... But also more satisfying/fulfilling than the way that you would have behaved had you followed your own ideas for those things.

Worship... is when we express the worth or worthiness of something.

Worship... The word literally means "to ascribe worth" worth-ship (the worthiness of something)

We worship God, through the way that we eat, drink, talk when the way that we eat, drink, talk shows that God's prescription for those things **is more worth it** than the world's prescription for those things.

We worship God, through the way that we eat, drink, talk when the way that we eat, drink, talk... shows that we believe that God's design for the use of those things will be of more benefit and of more worth to us than if we used those things according to our own way.

And when we live in a way that shows that God's design, and God's instruction is of more worth and of more benefit to us... **The evil spirit world is shamed.** We are spitting in the face of Satan's system which tries and tries to get us to believe that his prescription for eating & drinking are superior in worth and benefit to us than God's prescription.

V14-16 Paul says that his one _____ is that we would all experience God's _____ to live more and more for the display of his glory.

V17-19 Three times over Paul says that one important way to experience this power for _____ is to grow in our understanding of God's incredible _____ for us who believe.