
God's Mysterious Plan Made Known

Ephesians 3:7-13

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. 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Sermon Outline:

Main Point: We preach Christ so that the Church glorifies God.

- I. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ (7-8)
 - A. We cannot exhaust the grace of Christ.
 - B. We have inherited the task of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ.

- II. The Church Glorifies God (10-13)
 - A. The Church is the culmination of God's plan.
 - B. All people can be reconciled to one another through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. How are the preaching of Christ and the Church glorifying God connected?

2. Do you believe that Christ's grace can never be exhausted? What things in your own life and/or others' lives are you tempted to see as beyond the reach of Christ's grace?

3. Do you view the task of preaching Christ's grace (that is, telling others) as something you are personally called to do in life, regardless of your occupation? How do pastors and missionaries fit in?

4. How does the statement "the Church is the culmination of God's plan" challenge your view of the Church? Do you tend to view the Church as the vehicle for God's plan or something else?

5. How does the Gospel break down barriers that might otherwise keep people apart?

Going Deeper

1. Is there any sin or brokenness in your life for which you need to “lean in” to the inexhaustible grace of Christ and allow Him to redeem you?
2. If the Church is God’s vehicle for God’s plan, are there any ways that your involvement with it should change or adapt?
3. Do you truly believe the Church is better when there is unity in diversity rather than simply unity in similarity or sameness?
4. John Stott said that “every faithful Christian should be a world Christian.” How does this challenge your view of world missions? In what ways can you become more of a world Christian?