

To Know Him & to Make Him Known:

God's Vision for Every Church

Ephesians 3:7-21

God's Vision for *the* Church & for *every* church:

I. To Proclaim the Riches of Christ vv. 7-9

Like Paul:

- Our Privilege -
- Our Power -
- Our Preoccupation -

II. To Make God and His Accomplishments Known (*to everyone, everywhere*) vv. 10-11

The Auditorium...

The Audience...

III. To Live in Confident Faith vv. 11-19

Paul's Care:

"Do Not Lose Heart" v. 13

- The occupational hazard of the Pastor (John Stott)
- The paralyzing temptation of all Believers
- The example of Paul

Paul's "Therefore":

The Gospel Truth ("**therefore**" points backward in the text) vv. 11-12

- God's Purposes
- Christ's Accomplishment
- Our Confidence

Paul's Prayer:

The Gifts of the Trinity (Paul's prayer "**that He would grant you**"... More of Himself!) vv. 14-19

- Father - Identity
- Spirit - Strength
- Christ - Faith
- The Fullness of God - Love

IV. To Expect Extraordinary Things (*by God's power and for His glory*) vv. 20-21

A Benediction & a Doxology

God's Ability
God's Workplace
God's Glory
God's Guarantee

Ephesians 3:7-21

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, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.