

PROCLAIMING, PRAYING, AND PRAISING
Ephesians 3:1-21
5/9/10

In Ephesians 2 we saw God's wonderful plan to rescue us from our fallen and sinful condition.

We are dead in our trespasses and sins. 2:1

We walk according to the course of this world. 2:2a

We were slaves to pop culture.

Its opinions, values, aspirations, and impulses

Its way of thinking about what is okay and what is not

We walk according to the prince of the power of the air. 2:2b

We live in the lusts of our flesh. 2:3a

We are by nature children of wrath. v. 3b

Yet in Ephesians 2 we also saw that God is not only holy, He is also rich in mercy and love.

God made us alive together with Christ. 2:5b

Though we were dead in our trespasses and sin, but God caused us to be spiritually born again.

God saved us by grace. 2:5c

God raised us up with Christ. 2:6a

God seated us with Him in the heavenly places. 2:6b-7

We will rule and reign with Christ through all eternity

We will be eternal exhibits of God's grace and kindness

In 2:8-9 We saw the way of salvation

In 2:11-22 we saw that God's salvation is available to people of all races, national, and ethnic backgrounds.

This morning we see the importance of:

Proclaiming the gospel message to others

Praying for other people

Praising God

1. **Proclaim The Gospel. 3:1-13**

First we need to ask, “What is the gospel?”

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you. . . ³ . . . that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

a. **The gospel is a stewardship entrusted to us by God. 1-2**

Stewardship- a responsibility that a person has entrusted to someone else to manage or administer their affairs

It might be a household or an estate.

In this case it is a message.

God has graciously entrusted to us the responsibility of proclaiming His gospel message to people here on this earth.

b. **The gospel was once a mystery. 3-6**

“**Mystery**”- Something not previously revealed

3-5 It was first revealed by God to Paul, the prophets, and the other apostles.

6 The mystery is that both Jews and Gentiles are united as equals through the gospel.

Fellow heirs

Fellow members of the body

Fellow partakers of the promises

c. **The opportunity to tell others about the gospel of Christ is a gracious gift from God. 7-9**

2 a stewardship

7-9 a gift of God's grace- a special privilege

d. The mystery of the gospel reveals God's wisdom to rulers and authorities in heavenly places. 10-11

The church is an object lesson which reveals God's wisdom to the angels.

Through the church they see:

How God has triumphed over sin to His own glory

How He sent heaven's Best for earth's worst

How God redeemed His enemies at enormous cost, conquered us with love, and prepared us as a Bride for His Son

How He blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies

How through the work of the Lord Jesus on the cross, more glory has come to God and more blessings have come to believing Jews and Gentiles than if sin had never been allowed to enter

11a The was all a part of God's eternal plan

Before the world was made, God knew Satan would rebel and that we would follow him in Sin.

God had already prepared a counter strategy which included the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and glorification of Christ.

11b God's whole plan center on Christ Jesus and was carried out by Him

God has been vindicated; Christ has been exalted; Satan has been defeated and the church has been enthroned with Christ to share His glory.

e. Our boldness comes through faith in Christ. 12a

f. We have confident access through faith in Christ. 12b-13

Confident access to God in salvation

Confident access to God in prayer

Confidence in the midst of trials and tribulations

Knowing that others will be saved because we have been willing to endure difficulties in order to proclaim the gospel

Look for an opportunity to proclaim the gospel with someone this week.

But also:

2. **Pray For People. 3:14-19**

- a. **Pray that fellow Christians will be strengthened in their faith so that Christ might be at home in their hearts. 14-16a**

“In the inner man”

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”

Dwell- to be at home in your heart.

What does it take for Christ to be at home in our hearts?

◇ Faith that instills courage and character

- b. **Pray that people might be able to comprehend the love of Christ. 17b-19a**

18 In all its dimensions

1:3 Blessed with every spiritual blessing

1:4 Chosen before the foundation of the world

1:5 Predestined as sons of God

1:7 Redeemed through Christ’s blood

1:7 Completely forgiven

1:8 Lavished with grace

1:9 Revealed God's mystery
1:11 Given an eternal inheritance
1:13-14 Sealed with the Holy Spirit as a pledge
2:5 Made spiritually alive
2:5-9 Saved by grace
2:6 Raised and seated with Christ
2:13 Brought near to God
2:18 Given access to God the Father
2:19 Made fellow citizens with the saints
2:19 Made members of God's household
2:21 Made into the temple (dwelling place) of God
2:22 Indwelt by the Holy Spirit
3:6 Made fellow heirs, fellow members of the body
3:6 Made fellow partakers of the promise in Christ

19a Pray that people be able to better comprehend God's love which surpasses knowledge

c. Pray that other Christians might grow in godliness. 19b

The fullness of God- godliness, godlikeness

1 Peter 1:15-16 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

3. Praise God. 3:20-21

a. Praise God for His power to do far beyond what we ask or even think. 20a

b. Praise God for His power at work within us. 20b

c. Praise God for His glory at work in the church . 21a

d. Praise God for His glory in Christ Jesus . 21b

To all generations

Forever and ever

Amen