

The Gift of Gospel Proclamation

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, January 17, 2021; Steve Thiel

As believers, we must understand that the church is absolutely central to God's eternal purpose that He has realized in Jesus. Therefore, it must not be pushed to the periphery but be central to our lives. In other words, we should be ready to pray, work, and suffer for her glory!

I. Is a Tremendous Privilege – Read Ephesians 3-7-9

- A. As you read Ephesians 3:7-13, what are all the different ways that Paul highlights his privilege to be a minister of the gospel? Why do you think he call himself the very least of all the saints?

- B. According to verses 8-9, what are two things included in the gift of God's grace to Paul? How would you compare and contrast the gift to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and the gift to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God?

- C. How would you describe the connection between salvation (being overwhelmed by God's grace in your life) and proclamation? If you're honest, how excited are you to share the unsearchable riches of Christ with others? Do you consider it a tremendous privilege? Why or why not?

II. Has an Incredible Result – Read Ephesians 3:10-12

- A. As you consider these verses, who are the people of the church? How would you describe them? How do they get into the church? What's the demographic? How is the book of Acts helpful?

- B. In what way is the church the manifold wisdom of God? What do you think Paul means when he says that it's through the church that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made know to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places? Who is that? Demons? Angels? Which is it and why?

- C. How does the church being God's eternal plan highlight the importance of the gathering of the saints? How does verse 11 impact the way you think about the church? What changes would you like to make in your daily life to make the people of God more central to all that you do?

III. Has an Enormous Cost – Read Ephesians 3:13

- A. As you read verse 13 and you look at the life of the Apostle Paul, what are the things in this world that are worth suffering for? How is 2 Timothy 2:10 helpful in answering this question?

- B. How would you evaluate your willingness to suffer for the gospel? In what ways would you like to grow in serving and sacrificing for the church? In what ways would you like to grow in your willingness to share the gospel with your boss and colleagues, friend and family?

- C. What are some practical things that you can do to not lose heart in proclaiming the gospel?