

October 13, 2024
Ephesians 3:1-13
“Prelude To A Prayer, One Man’s Calling”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

V 1, “For this reason” points back to the previous chapter, **vv 11-21**. This was about Jew and Gentile being on equal footing, more generally it refers back to God’s grace to the Gentiles. Paul is in prison because he chose to be faithful to his calling.

Vv 5-6, the OT saints had no idea of the church. Abraham was promised by God that the whole earth would be blessed through him. Isaiah wrote about the Jews being a light to the nations so that His salvation would reach the end of the earth. True, sure, but they did not clearly understand the “mystery” not until what they wrote about was made clear in the NT.

Vv 7-9, Paul was MADE an apostle/preacher/minister. No man should enter into the ministry unless he is absolutely certain of the Lord’s calling him to do so. Anyone who does go without this clear calling, no matter how good the intentions, can and will harm the work of the Lord. Read **Jeremiah 23:21-32**. Those that went, those who were sent. So many want the position but are unwilling to pay the price.

Vv 8b-9, Paul’s primary mission was to the Gentiles but he would preach to anyone who would listen or who was chained to him! By the way, the fathomless spiritual wealth of Christ can never be fully comprehended, God had in mind this wonderful truth as part of His eternal plan before the creation of the world.

“How we view and react to circumstances is more important than the circumstances themselves.” *John MacArthur*.

Every one of you in front of me today are stewards of the calling He has on your life for which He has equipped you with: spiritual gifts, opportunities, skills, knowledge, and blessing from the Lord to carry out this calling.

Vv 10-11, “The church is not an end in itself but a means to an end, the end of glorifying God.” *John MacArthur* The glory of God is the supreme goal of creation.

Application:

Each of us in Christ has a calling. John Piper has a book, *Don’t Waste Your Life*. Let this serve as an encouragement to all to live for Christ, put Him first, don’t waste your life.