



“A New Normal”

The Church’s Calling

Ephesians 3:1-7

The Church is called to:

I. Serving - “given me to you-ward” (vs. 1-3)

We are to serve as an:

A. Inmate (prisoner) – “the prisoner of Jesus Christ”

B. Instigator (steward) – “dispensation of the grace of God”

C. Insider (knower) – “revelation He made known unto me”

II. Studying – “the mystery of Christ” (vs. 4-5)

II Timothy 2:15 – study to show thyself approved; Acts 17:11- searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so.

We are to study by :

A. Survey – “when you read”

B. Synthesis - “ye may understand my knowledge”

C. Struggle - “by the Spirit”

John 14:26

III. Sharing - “I was made a minister” (vs. 6-7)

We are to share :

A. Heaven – “be fellowheirs”

B. Health – “of the same body”

C. Hope – “partakers of His promise”

CONCLUSION:

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

Sentence Sermon:

“Believers have a new normal which is a life of serving, studying, and sharing .”

Additional Verses

- *II Timothy 1:8, 11-12*
- *II Peter 1:21*
- *John 14:26*
- *I Corinthians 9:17*
- *Colossians 1:23, 29*
- *Galatians 3:29*
- *Isaiah 2:1-4; 61:5-6*
- *Galatians 1:12*
- *Acts 26:16-18*

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What is the tone of the passage?
- 2. What kind of example was Paul?
- 3. Can you name a few ways Paul is a good example using the text of this passage?
- 4. What is a mystery? the mystery?
- 5. What are some practical, everyday ways we can live out the principles in this passage?

INTRO:

Unfortunately when many churches have their business meetings today they spend their time trying to squelch some activity. Perhaps its too much talking before church in the sanctuary...or its hats/caps being worn inside the building...or people getting up too much to go to the bathroom...or it's the youth group talking during the service...

INTERESTINGLY that was the focus of the very early church as well...Acts records the "problem" with having Gentiles getting saved!

READ Acts 15:5-11, 19

V. 1

- For this cause = "built together for an habitation of God"
- I Paul = me, myself, and I...emphasizing his personal testimony and involvement.
- The prisoner of Jesus Christ = not Caesar's prisoner but the Lord's ...emphasizing God's sovereignty / purpose
- For you Gentiles = why he is imprisoned ...because he was getting the gospel to them...the outsiders

V. 2

- If ye have heard = little if...more like SINCE...
- The dispensation of the grace of God = dispensation ...house + law = economy or stewardship
- Which is given me to you-ward = my stewardship that Christ gave me was to tell you about God's grace and the mystery

V. 3

- How that by revelation He had made known to me = God's revealing something previously hidden...Paul would write be writing scripture = Revelation
- The mystery = the church being made up of Jews and Gentiles together
- As I wrote afore in few words = (cp. eph. 1:9)

V. 4

- Whereby when ye read, ye may understand = helping them connect the dots
- My knowledge in the mystery of Christ = writing to them to pass on scripture, ie. This letter, that they may know what He knows...notice even though it is about the church and the Jews and Gentiles, it is really about Christ.

God's power found in the gospel...Romans 1:16 .. the power of God unto salvation unto all who believe

V. 5

- Which in other ages = to other generations
- Was not made known unto the sons of men = no specific revelation concerning the church
- As it is now = things have changed...Paul is delivering revelation
- Revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets = Paul being one of the holy apostles
- By the Spirit = the Holy Spirit is the one who Inspires revelation (II Peter 1:21)

V. 6

- That the Gentiles should be fellowhiers =
- Of the same body = in the church
- Partakers of His promise = God's promise
 - In Christ = where it is found
 - By the gospel = what makes it work

V. 7

- Whereof I was made a minister = Paul was called by the Lord to be a minister of the gospel to the Gentiles
 - According to the gift of the grace of God given unto me = because Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus...He had a duty to tell others
 - By the effectual working of His power =
 - Effectual = "energia" where we get our word "energy" means effective
 - Power = "dunamis" which gives us our word dynamite or dynamic.