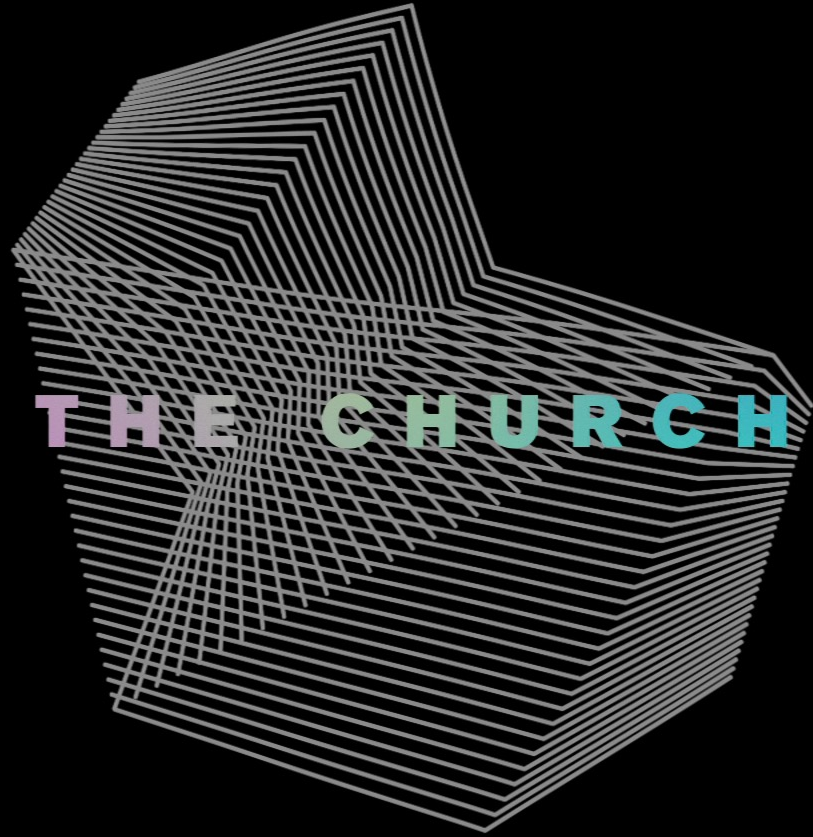




**EPHESIANS**



**THE CHURCH**



# A CHURCH THAT REVEALS CHRIST

EPHESIANS 3:1-13 ESV

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

# A CHURCH THAT REVEALS CHRIST

EPHESIANS 3:1-13 ESV

<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,



# A CHURCH THAT REVEALS CHRIST

EPHESIANS 3:1-13 ESV

<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.



# UNSURPRISED BY SUFFERING

EPHESIANS 3:1,13 ESV

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles...

<sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

*“They say of some temporal suffering, ‘No future bliss can make up for it,’ not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.”*

C.S LEWIS



# 1. THE CHURCH *HAS* A MESSAGE OF GRACE

EPHESIANS 3:2-9 ESV

<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.





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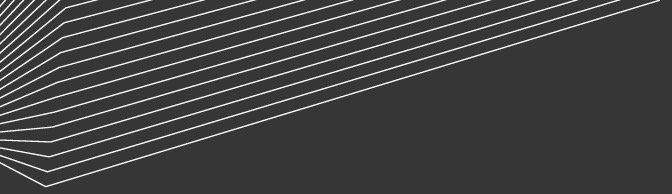
<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things

# 2. THE CHURCH IS A MESSAGE OF GRACE

EPHESIANS 3:10 ESV

<sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...

<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.



When you see yourself as the  
‘least of the saints’  
*...no one is beneath you.*



# 2. THE CHURCH *IS* A MESSAGE OF GRACE

2 CORINTHIANS 2:15 ESV

<sup>15</sup> For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing



# 2. THE CHURCH IS A MESSAGE OF GRACE

EPHESIANS 3:10 ESV

<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

*“There is more going on with the church than meets the eye. If you are part of the church, then you are part of a cosmic sermon that is being preached to spiritual rulers and authorities.”*

TONY MERIDA

# 3. ACCESS TO THE GOD OF GRACE

EPHESIANS 3:11-13 ESV

<sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.



*“The enjoyment of God...is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To fully enjoy God is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here: better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any or all earthly friends.”*

JONATHAN EDWARDS



# 3. ACCESS TO THE GOD OF GRACE

HEBREWS 4:16 ESV

<sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.