

# L84 | Ephesians | "The Eternal Purpose of God in Christ" | Eph. 3:8-13

## I. Intro/Review:

- History of the principalities and powers
  - Created, fallen, darkness - much they know, yet the mystery hid in God from the beginning of the world
  - Operated off limited knowledge and understanding - take the wise in own craftiness (Job 5:13, 1 Cor. 3:19, 2 Cor. 4:2, Eph. 4:14)
- The church makes known the manifold wisdom of God
  - Unknown to known
  - Hid to seen
  - Unsearchable to searchable
  - Mystery to revealed
- Given to Paul - church continues to manifest this
  - Jew and Gentile
  - Gentile to Gentile - divided the nations (one in Christ - one body)

## II. Preview:

- The Eternal Purpose of God in Christ
  - Why bring up the eternal purpose?
  - What is a purpose?
  - What is God's eternal purpose?
  - Can He Bring His purpose to pass?
- The boldness and confidence by the faith of Him Whom God's purpose is in

## III. Sermon:

**According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:  
{Ephesians 3:11}**

### • Why bring up the eternal purpose?

#### 1. "according to"

- According to's of Ephesians 1
  - :4 - "according as He hath chosen us in Him"
  - :5 - "according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace"
  - :7 - "according to the riches of His grace"
  - :9 - "according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:"
  - :11 - "according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:
  - :19 - "according to the working of His mighty power"

2. Eph. 3:9 - "from the beginning of the world"
    - "hid (v9) in God" - hid from the principalities and powers in heavenly places
    - Purposed it before the world, hid until now, and purpose to do so
    - That which was hid and now revealed was purposed before the world began
  3. The fulness of that purposed in Christ now revealed for all to see!
- **What is a purpose?**
    1. **"purpose"** - That which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished; the end or aim to which the view is directed in any plan, measure or exertion.
      - "shewbread" - Matt. 12:4, Mar. 2:26, Luk. 6:4, Heb. 9:2
    2. Romans 8:28-30 - Biblically defining "purpose"
      1. Eph. 1:9 - "His good pleasure" ("purposeth in heart" - 2 Cor. 9:7)
      2. "foreknowledge" - counsel, will (promise, determination)
      3. "predestinate" - end, goal, something to be apprehended
        - Chosen - holy and without blame (godliness)
        - Called - justified - glorified
      4. "worketh" - Eph. 1:11 - "who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will"
        - Power - Eph. 1:19 - "working of His mighty power"
        - Rom. 9:28 - "For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."
      5. "fulness" of destination - Christ is all and in all - God all in all
  - **What is God's eternal purpose?**
    1. **The time component of the "eternal purpose"**
      - :9 - "from the **beginning** of the world...who created all thing by Jesus Christ:"
        - Eph. 1:4 - "**...before the foundation of the world...**"
      - :10 - "to the intent that now..."
      - :21 - "unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus **throughout all ages, world without end.** Amen."
        - Eph. 2:7 - "that in the **ages to come** He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace.."
      - Isa. 46:9-10 - "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"
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## 2. The substance of the "eternal purpose" - "in Christ Jesus our Lord"

- Eph. 1:3 - "in Christ" - elect, firstborn of every creature
- Eph. 1:20 - "set Him at His own right hand" - firstborn from the dead
  - Ps. 16 - right hand pleasures forevermore
  - Fulness of Godhead in Christ
  - Creation & Redemption
  - God will be all in all by, through, and in Christ for Christ is all, and will be in all.

### • Can He Bring His purpose to pass?

#### • The nature of the "eternal purpose" - that which He purposed

##### 1. Nature of purpose

- Not according to our works - 2 Tim. 8-9
- It's His - "zeal of the Lord of hosts" will perform this

##### 2. Nature of promise - veracity, verity, credibility

- God cannot lie
- Heb. 6:13-20
  
- Pro. 20:18 - "Every purpose is established by counsel:..."
- Pro. 15:22 - "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."
- Pro. 8:14 - "Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength."

##### 3. Nature of the times/worlds

- Acts 1:7 - "And He said unto them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power."
  
- Heb. 1:2 - "hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;"
  - "worlds" - present, this, to come, "ages to come"
  - By God's judgments He steers the times

### • Summary 1

- Rom. 4:21 - "And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform."

##### 4. Nature of man's purpose and promise

- Pro. 11:14 - "Where no counsel is, the people fall:..."
- Pro. 12:15 - "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."
- Pro. 19:21 - "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."

- **Summary:**

- Pro. 21:30 - "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."
  - Jer. 29:11 - "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."
- Acts 13:23 - "of this man's seed (David's) hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:"
- **Expressions**
  - Rom. 4:17 - "and calleth those things which be not as though they were."
  - 1 Cor. 1:28 - "and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:"
- "His good pleasure" ("purposeth in heart" - 2 Cor. 9:7)
  - Isa. 9:7 - "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."
  - Rev. 4:8-11 - "...for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

#### IV. **Conclusion:**

- The good pleasure of His will has counseled and predestined wherein He planned and purposed
- The fulness of good pleasure of His will dwells in Christ.
- He will see to the destruction of that which is right in the eyes of men and His will in Christ will stand alone
- His zeal and fervency works out the counsel of the good pleasure of His will
- He has declared the end from the beginning and that which was unsearchable He has now revealed - our end to is expected and ought to be our earnest expectation.
- Eph. 3:12 - "In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him."
  - God in Christ has called out things that be nought as though they were (Eph. 2)
    - Raised together
    - Seated together
    - A shew
- We have things present in Christ, things present in promise for things to come which we patiently and expectingly for!