

God's Better Plan

If you could design the perfect plan for your life, what would it look like? Would it include success, comfort, wealth, or peace?

We all make plans—and planning is part of life. But long before you began making plans for your life, **God already had a plan for you.**

That's what we've been learning in Ephesians.

- In **chapter 1**, we saw that before the foundation of the world, God chose you for Himself—if you've believed in Jesus.
- In **chapter 2**, we learned that God preplanned good works for us to walk in.

Proverbs 16:9 says, “*A man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.*”

Yes, we plan—but God's plans are greater. They're eternal, limitless, and full of grace.

That's what Ephesians 3 reveals: **God's better plan—and it includes us.**

Paul shows that believers are part of something far greater than we could imagine. Verse 9 calls it “*the plan of the mystery hidden in God.*”

NO MATTER WHAT PLANS WE MAKE, GOD'S PLAN IS BETTER.

It's better because it's bigger, eternal, rooted in grace, and invites us to play our part in the greatest plan ever conceived. **Paul gives us four examples that prove it:**

Example #1 - The Jews Had Their Plan — But God's Plan Was Better (3:1–6)

In Paul's day, Jews saw themselves as God's chosen people—and they were. But privilege turned into pride. Their dream was simple: a kingdom for Israel, ruled by Israel's Messiah, while Gentiles stayed on the outside looking in. That was the Jewish plan. But **God's plan was better.**

When Jesus came, He revealed a mystery hidden for ages: salvation and blessing would be offered to all—Jew and Gentile alike. The cross opened the door of grace to the entire world.

“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.” (3:6)
God's plan broke down the wall between Jew and Gentile, forming one new body—the church.

Application: God's plan includes people we would exclude. He's saving people from every nation. He's bringing together people who would never connect apart from Christ.

Example #2 - Paul Had His Plan — But God's Plan Was Better (3:7–9)

Before he met Jesus, Paul's plan was to destroy Christianity. But one day Jesus changed everything.

On the road to Damascus, Jesus stopped Paul in his tracks, saved him by grace, and sent him to preach the very gospel of grace he once tried to destroy. "Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace... to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (3:7–8)

Paul found something infinitely better than his plan: purpose in God's plan. He once persecuted believers; now he was imprisoned for preaching Christ. And yet Paul rejoiced, calling it a "*gift of grace*."

Application: When you say, "*Lord, what shall I do?*" you open your life to God's adventure for you. Whether He sends you across the street or across the world, His plan is always better.

Example #3 - Satan Had His Plan — But God's Plan Was Better (3:10–13)

Satan's goal has always been to divide and destroy. He divided Adam and Eve from God, Cain from Abel, and nations from one another. In Paul's day, Satan continued to push the divide between Jews and Gentiles. But God had a plan—and His plan was better.

Through Christ, God created something new: one body made up of believing Jews and Gentiles.

Through the church, He is displaying His wisdom of unity to the entire spiritual realm.

“So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.” (3:10)

Angels and demons watch the church and marvel. They see former enemies now united in love, and they're forced to admit: God's wisdom wins. Even when Satan thought he'd won when Judas betrayed Jesus, God was fulfilling His plan of redemption. What Satan meant for harm, God turned to good.

Application: When life gets hard, don't lose heart. Even when you suffer for doing right, God is weaving His plan for eternal good.

Example #4 - We Have Our Plans — But God's Plan Is Better (3:14–21)

After describing God's plan, Paul prays that we would grasp its wonder and embrace our part in it.

That phrase, “*for this reason,*” points back to the end of chapter 2, where Paul spoke about God's great building plan—the holy temple He's constructing (the Church).

“That according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being.” (3:16) God wants His people strong—not defeated. He gave us His Spirit when we believed in Jesus to empower us to live the life He desires for us. Then Paul prays that “*Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*” (v.17). When Jesus becomes central, your plans align with His. Life stops being about what *you* want—and becomes about what *He* wants.

And Paul prays that we would grasp the vastness of God's plan: “That you may comprehend... the breadth and length and height and depth—and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.” (3:18–19) God's building plan is **as wide** as His grace, **as long** as

eternity, **as high** as heaven, and **as deep** as Christ's love.

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think... to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (3:20–21)

Application: Why cling to small dreams when God invites you into His eternal one?

When you say, “*Here I am, Lord—use me,*” you discover strength, peace, and joy in the adventure of His plan.