

WHAT'S SO GRAND ABOUT THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 3:7-13

FROM PASTOR MARK

I myself have enjoyed hearing the other pastors' sermons in this series on Ephesians 1-3, "Called." The "church" (ekklesia) is "a *called out* assembly." Both the universal and local church are grand and glorious to God. I wonder if we understand how God sees the church and if we value it as He does.

- I. **Value God's Grand PLAN for the Church (3:7-9).**
 - A. The Person Designated to Reveal the Plan (7-8)
 1. Paul's Humility
 2. Paul's Assignment
 3. Paul's Message
 - B. The Plan Determined by our God (9)
 1. A Certain Plan
 2. A Secret Plan
 3. A Sovereign Plan
- II. **Value God's Grand PURPOSE for the Church (3:10-11)... *the Glory of God***
 - A. The Classroom: The Universe
 - B. The Instructor: God
 - C. The Lesson: The Wisdom of God
 - D. The Students: Angels
 - E. The Illustration: The Church
 - F. The Reason: The Work of Christ
- III. **Value God's Grand PRIVILEGES for the Church (3:12-13)**
 - A. Personal Access to God (12)
 1. The Courage of Confident Access
 2. The Entrance to that Privilege
 - B. Personal Assignments from God (13, Philippians 1:29)
 1. The Suffering Expected
 2. The Dignity Expressed

Personalize:

1. Are you a member of the family of God, the Church, Christ' Body?
2. Do you value the Church as He does (Acts 20:28)?

3. Are you investing your time, talents, and treasures in what is so precious to Jesus, His Church?

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. What are some of the reasons that some people don't appreciate the Church?
2. What truth about the Church from Ephesians 3:7-13 increases your appreciation of it?

FOR NEXT TIME—Read Ephesians 3:14-21