

What does it look like to be "Rooted In _____?"

02/05/2017

Ephesians 3 (NIV)

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know

this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

GHFC Mission Statement: "We exist to live by God's Word, to be known by our love and to bring hope to Grays Harbor."

-God's Word

-Love

-Hope

Core Values:

-Presence of God: we know Him better than we know ourselves, and certainly better than the wicked ways of this world. We know His voice and trust His voice. It becomes easier to make hard decisions because we have a newfound confidence before God's throne. We become like Jesus.

-Reaching the Lost: We live with more compassion, understanding and grace. Our heart hurts when we see others hurting and we become like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden; a sanctuary for the hurting and broken. We become like Jesus.

-Community: we lay down our rights so to speak and we pick up transparency like we have never known. We learn to trust again. We learn to laugh again. We are reminded that there can be beauty, even in the midst of pain. We are closer to understanding our purpose in life. We don't take ourselves too seriously. We become like Jesus.

-Discipleship: We live with deep convictions. We model our life after the Holy One. We learn that we are either growing or dying. Living out the Gospel becomes our chief priority. We become like Jesus.

-Serving Others: we lay down our selfish desires and we sacrifice. We learn what love truly is and what it is not. We deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We learn to serve without expectation is a difficult

but beautiful thing. We embrace the reality that sometimes, its more powerful to not say a word than it is to preach a great sermon. We become more like Jesus.

Often times it's easy for us to just look at the outside of something and make up our minds about it.

- Houses (foundation, attic, roof)
- Vehicles (previous accidents- CARFAX)
- Guys and Gals (attraction)

How often do we really check what's going on inside or what's happening under the surface? Sure, we know it's the "right thing to do" but when did you last find yourself not listening to your own advice in that regard? Probably more recent than we'd all like to admit.

But you see, this is why the subject of being Rooted and asking ourselves WHAT and WHO we are Rooted In is so important. If we're not willing to take an honest inventory of our lives, we will never truly change and if we never change, we will never live in complete freedom and experience the life that God has planned for us.

We talk a lot about the vertical direction as a Christ follower and we talk a lot about the horizontal direction too but what we don't talk about very much is a downward pointing arrow. Traditionally, we've kinda given that one to the enemy and said that points to hell. Heaven up, hell down. Well, I'd like to redeem the down arrow today if you will and help us to think of it quite differently.

You see, the root of a plant typically grows downward, anchoring the plant as it absorbs nutrients and moisture. And in a similar way, an anchor is dropped from a sea vessel so that it will keep that boat or ship still in that same place, even as the waters are moving constantly underneath it.

What "nutrients" are you absorbing today? Sadly, the world has sold many of us a counterfeit form of nutrients. The enemy of our lives, Satan, uses so

many things in so many ways to try and tempt us, distract us and deceive us into thinking something is of nutritional value to our soul and spirit when in reality, it's nothing but a sugar-coated lie! So I would ask, what lies have you been receiving as truths today?

What fills the changing waters that your life boat rests on? Have you found yourself anchored to the unchanging God during those times or have you found yourself drifting out to sea, following a course you know God never intended for your life? Who's been put in charge out there on those waters of change; is it Jesus or is it you?

These are questions we MUST answer today, and truthfully, if we are going to find contentment in this life and true joy in living for Jesus.