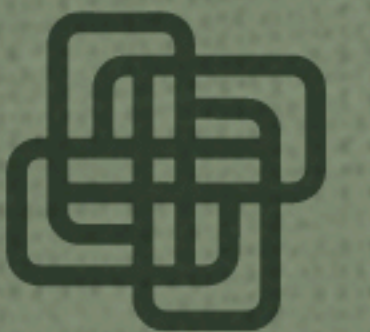




Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*



Whose Call is it Anyways?



- Raised in wealthy family in major city
- Immersed in orthodox religion of his country
- Attended well-known worship center in area
- grows up to become religious zealot
- Convictions cost him reputation, personal comforts, freedom, life



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Genuine callings are captivated by God's glory above all else. vs. 1-6

Willingness to Die to Self | Seen in Paul's titles (vs. 1-2)

Paul = Small/Humble



Paul's calling = Gospel to Gentiles (Acts 9:15)



For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was

given to me for you,

- Dying to ourselves involves a willingness to put aside personal privilege.
- Dying to self involves a willingness to deny merit. (v.2)
- In God's economy we are always in every dimension of life a recipient of unconditional grace, and never deserving of any of it.



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Genuine callings are captivated by God's glory above all else. vs. 1-6

Willingness to live for others | Seen in love for the Gentiles (vs. 3-6)

2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was

Paul saw himself as a steward of God's grace

given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,

as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into

Ethnic Jews

the mystery of Christ, 5 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. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the

The Gospel levels the playing field.

same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

-The Jews would not like this bc they couldn't wrap their head around why a Messiah would allow covenant entry to an unclean people.

-The Gentiles would not like this bc it would require entry into the covenant of the Jews



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*

In thinking along those lines about a costliness to our call--“God’s whisper tends to be equal parts enlivening and terrifying resonating deeply with our souls while also coming at a cost requiring a great amount of risk—and we never graduate from this. You will never reach a stage of spiritual maturity in your life where God’s voice is not equally terrifying and enlivening. You will never reach a place where it is all fruit and no cost. You will never reach a place where it is all faith and no risk. We never graduate...the second your spirituality becomes comfortable I would start to question if it’s God that you’re still listening to. Living by God’s voice is not a method—it is a radical commitment to terrifying obedience, and it is a stubborn resilience to risk your own foolishness.”

-Tyler Stanton



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Genuine callings are enthralled by God's grace. Vs. 7-13

Enthralled by God's grace in individual calling (vs. 7-9)

7 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. 8 To me, though I am the "Righteous" Deeds of Men = Filthy Rags (Isa. 64:6)

very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the

Power of the Gospel

(Incomprehensible)

unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the

plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things

-We will never understand the magnitude of grace until we come to grips with the depths of our damning depravity.

-Christian maturity is never afraid of repentance and as a matter of fact it desires it.



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Genuine callings are enthralled by God's grace. Vs. 7-13

Enthralled by God's grace towards the Church (vs. 10-13)

Manifold Wisdom of God = complex brilliance of God's salvation plan. (multi-faceted beauty)

10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be

Good Angels? (1:20-21) or Bad Angels? (6:12)

made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was

▲God is using His church to display his glory to the heavens▲

according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

(Heb 4:16-Boldly approach the throne of grace)

12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in

him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is

your glory.

-The church isn't just intended to transform the world but also to transfix heaven's face on the King of Kings & Lord of Lords.





Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*

