

“The Manifold Wisdom of God”

Text: Ephesians 3:1-13 Speaker: Jeremy Freimark

Introduction (Eph 3:1-4)

- **WE, CHRIST’S BODY**, are the **FULLNESS OF GOD**.
- Pressed from All Sides
 - The disheartening state of the world today
 - The commonality of sin and evil throughout history
 - Paul's response to tribulation
- Paul's Imprisonment and Context
 - Paul writing to the Ephesians while imprisoned, likely during Nero's rule
 - Addressed to the believers in the church of Ephesus

What powerful message was Paul carrying that allowed him to remain hopeful in affliction for our sake as fellow Gentiles?

Truth #1: We Are God's People (Ephesians 3:5-6)

- Paul reveals the mystery hidden since the foundations of the world
- Gentiles are fellow heirs, members, and partakers in the body of Christ
- Supporting verses: Psalm 22:27 & 86:9; Isaiah 42:6; Acts 15:16-18 & 26:15-18

Truth #2: Christ's Victory over the Demonic (Ephesians 3:7-11)

- God's progressive revelation
- God’s manifold wisdom
- Supporting verses: 1 Cor. 2:7-8- 7, Rom 11:25-26, Col 2:15
- Charge! Matthew 16:17-19

Truth #3: Full Access to God, our Father (Ephesians 3:12)

- Full access to God through faith in Christ's work
- Solomon's temple
- Supporting verses: Hebrews 4:14-17; 10:19-25

Conclusion (Eph 3:13)

- Paul's Word of Encouragement—For YOUR glory!
- Unity of the Church, Christ's Victory, and Full Access
- Great Cloud of Witnesses (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. What are some of the pressing issues in the world today that make you feel disheartened? How do these challenges affect your faith and hope?
2. How does the knowledge of being part of Christ's body, along with other believers, impact your understanding of your identity and purpose as a Christian?
3. In what ways do you personally relate to Paul's experience of suffering, pressure from persecution, or discouragement? How did he respond to those challenges?
4. Discuss the three elements of Paul's message: (1) We are God's people, (2) Christ's victory over the demonic realms, and (3) our full access to God, our Father. How do these elements bring hope and encouragement to us today?
5. How does the progressive unveiling of God's wisdom throughout history, culminating in Christ's death, resurrection, and the establishment of the Church, impact your understanding of God's plan and purpose?
6. How can we apply the knowledge of Christ's victory over the demonic realms and our role as partakers of God's grace to overcome discouragement and stand firm in our faith?