

Servants of the Gospel
A Study through the book of Ephesians
Ephesians 3:7-9

We Christians are so blessed; we joyfully get to serve Jesus, and we also get to serve one another in love. But did you know that there is another area we are called to faithfully serve in? We are called to also serve the gospel. What does that intel? Let's talk about it!

As we continue on in our journey through the book of Ephesians, we are now in the third chapter where Paul is sharing with the Christians at Ephesus about his own ministry assignment from the Lord.

I believe that the Holy Spirit moves Paul to share this in verses 7-9 in order to give us an example for how we are to also be a servant of the gospel. Let's unpack these three verses to see how they relate to us.

Ephesians 3:7, "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given to me by the working of His power."

This phrase, "A servant of the gospel" is only used here in the Bible. The word "servant" is "deakonos" and referred to a trusted servant who carries out his master's business.

While we know that the Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everybody who believes (see Romans 1:16). Here we see that this gospel also requires one to serve it for it to work where God intends for it to work.

Besides sharing the gospel, how does one serve the gospel? We serve the gospel with our lifestyle, with our delivery and with our simplicity. Concerning our lifestyle, there are five ways we are to serve the gospel in this area of our life:

First, we serve the Gospel with our behavior, Titus 2:9-10, "Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive."

Second, we serve the Gospel with our mouths, Colossians 4:5-6, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most out of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Third, we serve the Gospel by relating to others, 1 Corinthians 9:22-23, "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I may save some."

Fourth, we serve the Gospel with our deeds, Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Fifth, we serve the Gospel with our preparation, 1 Peter 3:15-16a, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience”

Ephesians 3:8, “Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”

Not only do we serve the gospel with our lifestyle, we also serve the gospel with our delivery of it. We saw from 1 Peter 3:16 we are to deliver the gospel with gentleness and respect, but there’s more. See the word “preach”? It isn’t what you think.

The Greek the word for preach is “euangelizo” it simply means to bring someone some extremely good and joyful news. It’s to announce some very happy - glad tidings.

A real deterrent to the gospel, besides not serving it the way we should serve it, is that we simply are not excited about it. It’s supposed to be the best and happiest news in the world, but we treat it like we are telling someone we just hit their car!

Like with what Paul said here, “this grace was given to me’, God supplies us with the kind of grace (enabling power) to deliver the Good News the way He intends for it to be delivered.

By God’s amazing grace we are saved, by God’s amazing grace we live saved, by God’s amazing grace we can stay saved and by God’s same amazing grace we can share the gospel the way we are supposed to share it: with love, with respect, and with great joy.

Ephesians 3:9, “and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.”

Notice the phrase “and to make plain to everyone”. Serving the gospel means to be able to communicate the gospel simply, and understandably.

We know that the gospel is described in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, as being about how Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. We also know from John 3:16 it calls for our believing trust in Him.

There are many ways to make the gospel plain, here is one way, tell them:

“God in His great love for you gave His Son Jesus to be your sacrifice so that you can be totally forgiven by God. And God in His great love for you also raised Jesus back to life again so that by Him you can now be totally accepted by God.

For this to become your reality, be willing to turn to God’s love for you, admit to Him that you are a sinner that needs to be saved, and from this day on, put your believing trust (faith) in the living Jesus, confessing that He is now your Savior and Lord.”