

EPHESIANS 3:9-12

LESSON 18

To Make All Men See

1. Ephesians 3:9 – To Make All Men See

- a. “to make all men see” - a mission of communication/revelation/teaching/enlightening
- b. “what is” – Not just see the mystery, but what it is. Can you? Eph 1:18+, 2:15+, 3:6
- c. We preach the gospel of Christ (not Paul). We go to Paul only to make them see it.
- d. “fellowship of the mystery” – our fellowship in the body of Christ by the Spirit – 1Co 1:9; 2Co 13:14; Phil 2:1 – our fellowship needs to have the same mind (doctrine)
- e. “from the beginning of the world” = Gen 1:1, not Gen 12, 17, 22, Exo 19, Jer 31
- f. “hid in God” – which means Jesus knew it... since Jesus is God from before the world.
- g. Bible versions affect doctrines – “fellowship” vs. “dispensation/plan”; “by Jesus Christ”
- h. “created all things” – not just the old, but the new – Col 1:16, Eph 2:15, 2 Cor 5:17

2. Ephesians 3:10-12 – An Intended Purpose

- a. “to the intent” - We are not plan B. This has always been the *intended* plan.
- b. What intent? The manifold wisdom of God would be known throughout heaven!
- c. Your affections, orientation, work is heavenward – your labor is not in vain.
- d. Manifold = Many folds, multiplied, abundant. Not one sided, singular, simple.
- e. Something with many folds needs to be rightly divided, discerned from many sides.
- f. 3:11 - What is his eternal purpose/wisdom? His grace in Christ, the mystery – Eph 1:9-10
- g. Riches of Christ (8), all things created by Christ(9), purposed in Christ (11) – Ro 11:33-36
- h. 3:12 - “boldness and access” – not Hebrews 4:16! We are not asking to obtain.
 - i. Our access is to the Father, into His grace – Eph 2:18, Rom 5:2
 - ii. Boldness comes from that grace – Phi 1:20
 - iii. “with confidence” – 2 Tim 1:12, Phil 3:4-11; by understanding - Col 2:2
 - iv. “by the faith of him” – Of him describes the content of faith, not whose faith.
 1. Paul uses “his faith” in Rom 4:5, Christ is faithful here – 2Ti 2:13, 2Th 3:3
- i. Paul’s mission/message/motivation here explained; now it is given to us.
 - i. If you don’t know the mystery of Christ your ministry needs to shut down.

3. How to Make All Men See

- a. The goal: to make men see, not agree, not believe, not rejoice, but see.
- b. 1) Learn it - You can’t make men see it, if you don’t know what it is.
- c. 2) Learn to teach it – Different than you learning it – 2 Tim 2:2, 2:24-26
 - i. Start with the gospel – 1 Cor 15:1-4 is not known in Luke 18:34, Mark 9:32
 - ii. Show progressive revelation – Gen 1:29, 9:3, Lev 11:2, Acts 10:14, 1 Tim 4:1-4
 - iii. Compare and contrast verses – Gen 17:11 vs Gal 6:15; Deu 6:25 vs. Gal 2:16; Ps 51:11 or Eph 4:30; Luke 2:14 and Luke 12:51
- d. 3) Be patient – Continue growing in 1 Tim 2:4 – Col 1:11, Rom 5:3-4, Titus 2:2