

# KEEPING our FOCUS!

## Ephesians Series Part 9 Ephesians 3:1-13

When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles. . . <sup>2</sup> assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. <sup>3</sup> As I briefly wrote earlier, God Himself revealed His mysterious plan to me. <sup>4</sup> As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. <sup>5</sup> God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by His Spirit He has revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News.

<sup>8</sup> Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. <sup>9</sup> I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

<sup>10</sup> God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was His eternal plan, which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. <sup>13</sup> So please don't lose heart because of My trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored. Ephesians 3:1-13

### 1. FOCUS on His \_\_\_\_\_ for YOU!

<sup>1</sup>When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles. <sup>2</sup> assuming,..... that you know **God gave me the special responsibility** of extending His grace to you Gentiles..

<sup>7</sup> By God's grace & mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News.

<sup>8</sup>.. **He graciously gave me the privilege** of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. <sup>9</sup> **I was chosen** to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God...

**Why do Bad things happen to Good People??** <sup>1</sup>When I think of all this.....

(More accurate question would be why do good things happen to us bad people?)

- >Develop Godly Character (Romans 5:1ff, James 1:2ff)
- >Chastening (discipline) Because of our Sin (Hebrews12:5,6)
- >The Experience to Help Others (2 Corinthians 1:1-4)
- >To bring Glory to God (Job, John 9)
- >Encourage Others (13)

<sup>13</sup> So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, **so you should feel honored.**

Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, **as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.** <sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and the Master you are serving is Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

### 2. FOCUS on His \_\_\_\_\_ for Guidance!

<sup>3</sup> As I briefly wrote earlier, God Himself revealed His mysterious plan to me. <sup>4</sup> As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. <sup>5</sup> God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by His Spirit He has revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets.

**Other things to guide us:** >Advice of others >Circumstances **But these don't compare to God's Word!**

### 3. FOCUS on His \_\_\_\_\_ not YOURS!

<sup>6</sup> **And this is God's plan:** Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>21</sup> You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail.

Proverbs 19:21

### 4. FOCUS on His \_\_\_\_\_ not Outside Entities!

<sup>10</sup> God's purpose in all this was to use **the church** to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> **This was His eternal plan,** which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

### 5. FOCUS on \_\_\_\_\_ not Circumstances!

<sup>12</sup> Because of Christ and our faith in Him, **we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.**

<sup>13</sup> So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

<sup>16</sup> **So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God.** There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:16

#### **Financial Update**

Weekly Offering

Received

September 16, 2018

**\$ 8,804.19**

#### **Answers:**

Ministry, Word, Plans, Church, Prayer

## September

- Sun., 23rd** Small Group - Bible Study at 8:30 am, 8:45 am, 9:00 am  
Stewardship available to answer questions in the office from 9:30 am —10:00 am  
Church Service at 10:00 am in the Worship Center  
Stewardship available to answer questions in the office from 11:15 am —11:45 am  
Sunday Night Bible Study at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Tues., 25th** Ladies Bible Study "**Think Differently**" at 6:30 pm in room 103 C&D
- Wed., 26th** A Time to Pray 6:30 pm —7:00 pm in the Faith room  
Youth Night at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Kids Ministry at 6:30 pm upstairs in the children's area  
Ladies Bible Study "**Think Differently**" at 6:30 pm in room 103 C&D  
Daniel Bible Study at 7:00 pm—8:00 pm in the Faith room
- Sat., 29th** Bears Ministry from 1:00—4:00 pm in the Faith Room
- Sun., 30th** Small Group - Bible Study at 8:30 am, 8:45 am, 9:00 am  
Celebration Service at 10:00 am in the Worship Center  
Celebration Fellowship Potluck right after our Service  
Sunday Night Bible Study at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall