

Outline of Ephesians 1-3

- I. God's eternal purpose in Christ (1:3 – 3:21)
 - A. Spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3-14)
 - B. Paul's prayer for them in Christ (1:15-23)
 - 1. Have the spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:15-19)
 - 2. Understand the exalted position of Christ (1:20-21)
 - 3. Know the authority of Christ over the church (1:22-23)
 - C. God's plan for our salvation (2:1-10)
 - D. The difference Christ makes (2:11-22)
 - 1. God's family is different (2:11-12)
 - 2. God's law is different (2:14-15)
 - 3. God's foundation is different (2:20)
 - 4. God's temple is different (2:21-22)
 - E. The church is according to God's eternal purpose (3:1-21)

God's Eternal Purpose Accomplished

- To show divine wisdom through the church (3:10-11)
 - What – manifold wisdom of God
 - To whom – the principalities & powers in the heavenly places
 - Through what – the church
- Exactly what God intended to accomplish in Christ Jesus

The Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose Gives Us Access to God (3:12-19)

- Through faith in Christ (3:12)
- Therefore, to the intent that we may have boldness and access with confidence:
 - Do not faint (3:13)
 - Paul's prayer for them (and us)
 - Be strengthened through His Spirit (3:16)
 - Let Christ dwell in your hearts (3:17)
 - Be rooted and grounded in love (3:17)
 - Comprehend the riches of God, know the love of Christ (3:18-19)
 - Be filled with all the fullness of God (3:19)

The Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose...

- Brings glory to God (3:20-21)
 - He is able
 - In the church
 - By Christ
 - Throughout all of
 - The world's existence
 - Eternity

Take Aways

- What was hidden has now been made known, and we have it before us!
- You and I can read and understand the knowledge of the apostles and prophets
 - One cannot understand without reading/hearing
 - But it is possible to read and not understand. The Bible gives many reasons why.
- The church was exactly what God intended to accomplish in Jesus Christ from eternity
 - No after-thought or accident
- We have boldness and access to God with confidence
 - We have responsibility in the matter