

# Behold the Glory of God's Gospel

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October 8, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

God shows His glory as He \_\_\_\_\_ uses the most \_\_\_\_\_ people. 7-8a

God shows His glory in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His grace. 8b

God shows His glory in the mystery of the Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ since before \_\_\_\_\_ began. 9

God shows His glory through the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ church. 10

God shows His glory in the \_\_\_\_\_ to which He \_\_\_\_\_ our relationship to Him. 11-12

God shows His glory even in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints. 13

## ***Ephesians 3:7-13***

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** What was something amazing that you recently saw or learned?

**Read and Discuss:** Ephesians 3:7-13.

1. In verses 7 and 8 Paul speaks about being made a minister of the Gospel and preaching to the Gentiles as grace. Why was grace a good description for Paul to have of those opportunities? Are there times you, like Paul, feel that you're "the very least of all the saints"? Explain.
2. What does Paul mean when he says in verse 7 that grace was given me "by the working of his power"? To what extent do you think all believers are called to be ministers who preach the Gospel? Do you see this as more of a privilege or a duty? Why?
3. Paul describes the Gospel as "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (v. 8). List some results of the Gospel you'd categorize as riches. Take a moment to praise God together for these gifts of grace.
4. Paul says the Gospel was the plan of God "for ages" (v. 9). What evidence do you see in the Bible (Genesis-Revelation) that salvation in Jesus for all people groups has always been God's plan?
5. How do you think the Church makes known "the manifold wisdom of God" to "the rulers and authorities in heaven" as verse 10 declares? Where do you see evidence of that happening in Neighborhood Church? How do you see your life contributing to that?
6. Given what Scripture teaches about the nature of God and the nature of man, why would it be surprising that we could have bold access to God (v. 12)? How would you explain how faith makes this access possible? How does this work out in your relational rhythms with God?
7. This passage seems to highlight that God has purpose and that He is sovereign over all things. Where do you find reference to these themes within these verses? How are these facets of God a comfort to His people? How does Paul's perspective in his imprisonment influence how we might look at the difficulties we face in our lives as we seek to faithfully follow Jesus?

**Apply:** What truths contained in Paul's words will fill your hearts and minds with praise for God's glorious Gospel this week?

**Pray:** Thank God for His glorious Gospel and all the ways it reflects His goodness. Ask God to give us all eyes to see and appreciate that glory more and more each day. Pray for God to open the eyes of the spiritually blind, and pray that God would use you as a minister of the Gospel.