

¹For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of the Gentiles –

“Wait, I need to add something to my last thought before I move onto the next one.”

Verses 2-13

¹⁴For this reason, I kneel before the Father . . .

“Wait, I need to add something to my last thought before I move onto the next one.”

Verses 2-13

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly

. . . . ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with the Jews, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

- paraphrase –

God assigned me the task of making this plan of His known to everyone – that Jews and Gentiles are now one together because of Jesus Christ!

Key: We are now at the “Hinge point” of Paul’s letter.

- everything he’s written up to now leads to this moment.
- everything he writes after this is based upon this moment.

Paul is about to explain the “mystery” of WHY the Church exists!

10His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The purpose of the church is to demonstrate to the world what it looks like for a people to live together in the grace and mercy of God through Jesus Christ.

The Letter to the Ephesian Church:

- The Foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ!
 - Chapters 1-3 The Church “IS”
- The Purpose of the Church is to demonstrate to the world God’s grace & mercy in Jesus.
 - Chapter 3:10
- This Purpose will be accomplished when the old values & habits of Jesus Followers are replaced by something new and radical.
 - Chapters 4-6 The Church “DOES”

There are two consequences to this truth:

1. The Church is foundational to God's plan.

If you are a follower of Jesus, you cannot treat the Church as something optional and not important.

2. The Church does not exist for Christians.

- it exists for God.
- it exists for those who have yet to believe.

“If Christians are interested in what God is interested in, they will be concerned with those who are outside of their community.”

Sandy Millar

Message in a Sentence:

*God's going fishing . . .
. . . and His Church is the bait!*

Every Church must ask the question:

Is God catching anything with us?

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

