

Series: Healthy Church

Can't Stop Talking About It

Sunday February 4, 2018

TEXT: Ephesians 3:1-13

TEACHING:

1. *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles... (Eph. 3:1).*

2. What did Paul do in his circumstance?

- He put his circumstance in perspective
- He gave it a reason
- He redeemed it for a purpose
- And that purpose gave him joy

3. *Surely 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... (vv.2-3).*

4. *In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus (vv. 4-6).*

5. *I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power (v. 7).*

6. What has God called and enabled you to do?

7. *Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things (vv. 8-9).*

8. What has God gifted you to do – and how are you using those gifts to serve Him and others?

9. *His 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 (vv. 10-11).*

10. *In Christ and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence* (v. 12).

11. *I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory* (v. 13).

TAKEAWAYS:

A. What are you excited about these days? What are you talking about? Where does Jesus fit into these conversations?

B. How are you coping with a current, challenging circumstance? How are you giving it perspective? Can you see any purposes in it? Is there something to learn? Where is God in it?

C. Is there anything you've been wanting to talk to God about but you haven't? What might be keeping you from saying something? Does it help you to know that He welcomes you to speak freely?