

A Portrait of God's Man

Ephesians 3:1-8 Sunday AM, July 16, 2023

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 2:17-3:8 (NASB95) AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. ¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; ³ that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, ⁷ of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸ To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

There is a new way to see people that crosses every line we've used to divide ourselves. Instead of intersectionality, let's call it cross-sectionality. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, This wall divided Jews and Gentiles, but a new line emerges.

Where do you stand with Christ? All those rightly related to Christ have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, Citizens of God's kingdom—indeed members of God's household! This household has both history and a secure foundation. It is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and rests securely on Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone. Those redeemed are being fitted together, . . . growing into a holy temple in the Lord, . . . built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Don't limit salvation/redemption to a little prayer where you "got saved." THIS fitting together to be a dwelling of God in the Spirit IS right at the center of the works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. It takes intention, it takes spiritual character, and results from those looking to Christ and yielding to the Spirit of God. We normally sing this song at Easter, but each Lord's Day, we celebrate the Living Christ, remembering His place as Head over His church. Sing the work of Christ to glorify the Father through us! The power that raised Him from the grave Now works in us to powerfully save He frees our hearts to live His grace Go tell of His goodness

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!**

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; I speak from prison because I'm tied to Christ, but farther, because I'm tied to the mission given me to steward His grace not just for me, but for you! All of God's redemptive plan working to this point so I could carry out MY part of God's powerful and gracious plan which includes YOU—those formerly excluded. Paul ministered to them according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. And so, you and I are recipients of the same grace of God passed on through others. What do you who profess Christ feel both privileged AND obligated to do toward those around you? This song speaks of praying for others to COME to Christ to be reconciled to God. How about praying this for those God has called you to be part of their coming to maturity, to completeness in Christ.

***Hymn #245 (Red): I Am Praying for You *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Scripture: Isaiah 52:1-15** (NASB95) Awake, awake, Clothe yourself in your strength, O

Zion; Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; For the uncircumcised and the unclean Will no longer come into you. ² Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; Loose yourself from the chains around your neck, O captive daughter of Zion. ³ For thus says the LORD, "You were sold for nothing and you will be redeemed without money." ⁴ For thus says the Lord GOD, "My people went down at the first into Egypt to reside there; then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. ⁵ "Now therefore, what do I have here," declares the LORD, "seeing that My people have been taken away without cause?" Again the LORD declares, "Those who rule over them howl, and My name is continually blasphemed all day long. ⁶ "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.' " ⁷ How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, They shout joyfully together; For they will see with their own eyes When the LORD restores Zion. ⁹ Break forth, shout joyfully together, You waste places of Jerusalem; For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD has bared His holy arm In the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see The salvation of our God. ¹¹ Depart, depart, go out from there, Touch nothing unclean; Go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves, You who carry the vessels of the LORD. ¹² But you will not go out in haste, Nor will you go as fugitives; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel will be your rear guard. ¹³ Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. ¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men. ¹⁵ Thus He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, And what they had not heard they will understand.

Offering: *Doxology:

⁸ To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, What are the unfathomable riches in Christ? Did anyone in here know the offertory? Harold said this was such a staple in his Mennonite upbringing that he didn't realize that others didn't have it/know it. Unfathomable riches in Christ? Lift Your Glad Voices in Triumph on High, for Jesus Hath Risen, and Man Shall not die—the being He gave us death cannot destroy; Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow, and bade us immortal to heaven ascend. Don't take this ascending to heaven for granted. YOU ARE NOT HOLY apart from Christ. Did you hear Isaiah? The people of Israel had profaned God's name and disobeyed His commands. He used other wicked nations to discipline them, but then, faithful to make a way back for His own—⁶ "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.' " ⁷ How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" . . . For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. And have we who have been brought near by the blood of Christ been given less? Christian, be encouraged by all given you in Christ!

***Hymn #75: Praise the Savior**

If you would fulfill the mission of proclaiming the grace of God through your life among the people of God and before the watching world, you must look to God for provision. Follow Christ—Yes, morality, but more. What does He see allowing Him to forgive, to wait instead of pushing through, to have compassion where you might not even notice or get disgusted?

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Love Incarnate (With a prayer)**

Message: "A Portrait of God's Man" Ephesians 3:1-8 *Hymn #452: Make Me a Blessing *Prayer