

EPHESIANS

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



WHY I'M WHOLEHEARTEDLY DEVOTED TO THE CHURCH

EPHESIANS 3:7-13

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Though flawed and filled with imperfect people, Paul tells us that the Church is the showpiece of God's eternal plan of the gospel.

Ephesians 3:7-13

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Ephesians 3:7-13

¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

**We are wholeheartedly devoted to the Church
(church) because...**

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Ephesians 3:7-8

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- **Jesus is the boundless source of hope, meaning, and joy for our hearts.**

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- **We pray!**

Ephesians 1:15-18

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,** ¹⁸ **having the eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints

How do we access the unsearchable riches of Christ?

- Believe that it's available.
- We pray!
- **We read!**

Ephesians 3:1-4

¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ

We are wholeheartedly devoted to the Church (church) because...

- No one is beyond the power of God's grace.
- Jesus is the boundless source of hope, meaning, and joy for our hearts.
- **God has chosen the CHURCH (churches) to be the people in and through whom he displays His GRACE and LOVE.**

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The Mystery revealed to Paul:

The Church is the family of God where everyone, no matter our ethnicity, our past, the depth of our mistakes, the extent of our inadequacies and sin, are wholeheartedly accepted, loved, and embraced in Jesus, and it is our joy filled community that is the showpiece of God's glory, grace and wisdom. We are His chosen people!

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

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- The Church is filled with broken, flawed, imperfect people who are loved and being supernaturally transformed by God.
- **The Church is filled with broken, flawed, imperfect people who are entrusted by God to display His wisdom, glory, grace, and love.**

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- Enthusiastically pursuing Jesus, individually and collectively.
- Passionately seeking unity in Jesus in all things.
- **Joyfully and authentically living out the joy in Jesus with those who desperately need to meet Him.**