



Sunday, March 3, 2019

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The WEALTH of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

- A. The Christian and His RICHES (1:3-23)
- B. The Christian and His RECONCILIATION (2:1-22)
- C. The Christian and His REVELATION (3:1-21)

1. What was REVEALED (1-13)

a. The PRISONER and His REALITY (1)

What he states in v. 1 sets the stage for the application of Ephesians 3:2-13. Paul’s MISSION PERSPECTIVE of making Christ preeminent in his life fueled by his transforming understanding of his MASTER’S PROVIDENCE his MINISTRY PERSUASION then is driven without compromise or retreat. His course and determination in ministry are rooted in a fluent understanding of Who his God is. Paul’s perspective was to remain faithful until the end.

b. The PREACHER and His REVELATION (2-6)

We see Paul’s understanding of his STEWARDSHIP of this great truth and his PARTNERSHIP with other N.T. *“apostles and prophets”* in the teaching of the FELLOWSHIP of the mystery where Jews and Gentiles share equally in the RICHES of CHRIST, the RELATIONSHIP with CHRIST, and the REVELATION from CHRIST.

c. The PASTOR and His RESPONSIBILITY (7-13)

**With GREAT PRIVILEGE comes
GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**

i. He DEMONSTRATES a HUMBLE PERSPECTIVE (7-9)

Paul was a faithful servant with a mission perspective that was rooted in humility and Christ's preeminence (Philippians 1:21).

a) The Servant's MINDSET (7-8a)

1. He REVERES and WORSHIPS his MASTER

It was God who had made him a "*minister*" of the Gospel. It was God Who had demonstrated His undeserved love by radically saving him, transforming him by His infinite grace. As a result, Paul lives a life of awe and wonder, worshipping his gracious Master.

2. He is RESPONSIVE to the WILL of his MASTER

As a "*doulos*" of God, Paul was responsive to God's perfect will. He lived a life of submission seeking to honor his Master, seeking to live "*to the praise of the glory of His grace*" (Ephesians 1:6).

3. He is RELIANT upon the WORKING of his MASTER

Paul's ministry as a steward of the mystery is "*by the effective working of His power*." It was only by the grace of God, as he was intentionally dependent upon God's strength that he could effectively do what he was called to do.

4. He is RESPONSIVE to the NEEDS of OTHERS

As a “*diakonos*” of the Gospel, Paul followed Christ’s example of being responsive to the needs of others—“*to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10).

b) The Servant’s MESSAGE (8b-9)

1. PROCLAMATION of AWE (8b)

Typical of Paul, he piles words upon words saying, “*the unsearchable riches of Christ.*” His point is to captivate his readers full attention in order to help them begin to understand the magnitude of the blessing bestowed upon them.

2. ILLUMINATION for ALL (9)

Paul’s ministry was to help “*all men see*” these “*unsearchable riches of Christ*” (Ephesians 3:8). He was bearing “*the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 4:4) to both Jew and Gentile alike, helping them to see the formerly “*hidden*” truths of the “*mystery*”—the reconciliation and harmony within the Church through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.



Our WORTHY WALK is rooted in HUMILITY as we seek to serve God as we fulfill our RESPONSIBILITY as His ministers. Faithful service is undergirded as we DEMONSTRATE a SERVANT’S MINDSET by being RESPONSIVE to our MASTER’S WILL in RELIANCE upon HIS IN-WORKING, helping us RESPOND to the greatest NEED OF OTHERS by proclaiming the awe-inspiring MESSAGE of the mystery of the Gospel.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!