

Tim's version of TRAIN for Day 10

Text

Ephesians 3

6This 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. 7I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 8Although 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, 9and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 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, 11according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. 13I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

14For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15from whom his whole family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen

Reality

Holy Cow, there is a lot in this chapter. The whole Gentile thing is something we just take for granted. How hard was it for Paul to be the guy to really break through that barrier? The barrier that was so much deeper than anything we can imagine. God told the Jews they were the special people! So they could maintain his race and prepare for Jesus. And Jesus was here for the Jews at first. He had to make it all right with them first – no matter whether they rejected him or not. But then we all got to have the Messiah for everybody. I should realize that more. I am adopted, that should make me even more grateful to be in this family.

His intent was that “through the church his wisdom would be known.” This church is God’s chosen instrument! More pressure on us. More reason for us to continue to grow and to build and reach more people. We are the chosen instrument.

Vs 16 on is one of the most beautiful passages in the bible. God's glorious riches are there to give us strength and power to our hearts – so Christ can dwell there. That we may be rooted in love and have power – all of us – to try to grasp a small piece of the understanding of the enormity of God's love, and be filled with the “fullness of God.” That fullness is about Gods ability to do more than we ever even ask for or could imagine to ask for – which is a shame. If we thought about it more – there would be more power. We need to turn on the saw!
And then HE GETS ALL THE GLORY.

Application –

I need to love my adoption as a Gentile. But I need to embrace my full rights as a full son of God and remember that his amazing love and power are all mine for the asking. Actually they are mine even when I do ask. But there is more. NOT MORE I CAN DO, not more inside of me. It's not about pushing myself harder. It's about praying HIM harder.

Interaction with God

Another great Vision dinner last night Lord. Thank you for the Parkview partners that I'm getting the chance to know better. Thank you for Tim Bailey and Bill and Stella and Karen and Chuck and all the host homes who are really busting it to make all of this happen.

The extra thousand people – well we need a little help there. Be with us as we scramble to try to figure it all out.

Next Step

Taking moments to stop and realize the power and love.
I'm going to do that right now.
