

Ephesians 3:10-11 - 10 in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, A. in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places – Here we see the purpose of the grand design of God in His redemptive work, it is to **“make known His wisdom.”** It is for the display of the splendor of His glorious wisdom, the manifestation of His glory and infinite perfections. The church is the focal point of the angels, both fallen and holy, which “make known” the wisdom of God. ***Specifically that God has brought about unity in the church making Jew and Gentile into one unified, loving family of people who were once at enmity with each other.*** It is as if we were playing out some grand scheme or event for all the angelic world to be spectators, and through all our trials and toils and snares, through all of our joys and victories, God’s wisdom is made known to them. Consider what facets of the wisdom of God have now been made known in the work of redemption! The providence of God in creation is glorious and beyond comprehension!

Romans 11:33-36 - 33 Oh, the **depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? 35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? **36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.** To Him be the glory forever. Amen. NASB

B. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord – All of this amazing providential plan was accomplished by the work of the Lord Jesus! ***The “eternal purpose of God was carried out” in and by Christ Jesus!*** Christ’s life, (His ministry, crucifixion and resurrection) is the central event in all of human history which in itself accomplished and completed the eternal purposes of God! This purpose was in the mind of God for long ages past, and was brought to fulfillment by the passion of Christ! As John Piper has said, ***“The cross is the blazing center of the Glory of God!”*** All of the grand and glorious spiritual blessings that are ours in the church, **SEE Eph 1:3-11**, have been afforded to us by Christ’s work!

Isaiah 46:9-10 - 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**; NASB

2 Timothy 1:9-11 - 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,** who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASB

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who **became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,** 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." NASB

Ephesians 3:12-13 - 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

A. in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him – In Christ we have access to God! For a creature to approach the creator is an act of **“boldness”**, even if done in humble submission. But ***this could never be afforded to a sinner***, lest there be by some great reconciliation an **“access”** granted to come before His Holiness! We now have a **“confident access”** to God. The dividing wall has been removed, the veil has been

torn, and we have been born again into a new and living way to God, that is through Christ Jesus, who Himself is the way to God(John 14:6, 1 Peter). In Christ we have not only a “confident access” to God, but have become members of His family, heirs of His inheritance, and even bear His great Name!

Hebrews 10:19-22 - 19 Since therefore, brethren, **we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil,** that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. NASB

Hebrews 4:16 - 16 **Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace,** that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. NASB

B. I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory - Paul wants the Christians to develop his eternal perspective about his plight of being in chains for the gospel. These chains are “the glory” of the Ephesian Christians. In other words Paul’s preaching, which put him in chains, was the means of God in delivering salvation to the Gentile church! These chains should be our treasure, they brought us the gospel!

Ephesians 3:14-16 - 14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;

A. For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father – After all this profound enlightenment, Paul now prays that the Christians will have power to realize and apply these great truths to their life. This is a common theme in the writings of Paul. We get tremendous insights into the prayer life of Paul through these. (**Eph 1:16-18, 2 Thes 1:11**)

Philippians 1:9 - 9 **And this I pray,** that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, NASB

Colossians 1:9-10 - 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, **we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask** that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, NASB

B. from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name – He we see the church as a family with God as its Father. We are “fellow citizens with the saints” and “members of His household.” Christian here is cause for fear, you bear the name of God! What is the highest and holy privilege is also a great responsibility that you represent Him rightly. Who’s children are these?

James 2:7- 7 Do they not blaspheme **the fair name by which you have been called**? NASB

C. that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man – Again the idea of the “RICHERS of His glory” which are afforded to us, but this time Paul is praying that we become partakers of them. Behold the request of Paul; **to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man**; This is a profound idea that God would give us power in the “inner man.” The inner man means the heart, mind, and soul, that place where the battle of sin and temptation is fought and won. The Christian needs **powerful strength** in order to live the life he/she is called to, as Paul will shortly explain, it cannot be done in the energy of the flesh. This power is afforded to us through the Holy Spirit and His indwelling presence (John 7:37).

Ephesians 6:10-12 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, **and in the strength of His might.** 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
Philippians 4:13 - 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. NASB