

## **Ephesians 3:11-13**

Paul has labored to show us the cohesiveness and unveiling of God's plan of redemption in bringing the world (Jew and Gentile) together in Christ. This goal of our great Lord was not fully understood in prior generations but, as of the time of Paul's writing and into our present day, the "mystery" (that which was not previously fully known but has now been revealed) of God's redemptive plan has come. Now, the world can hear the good news of what God has done for them through the Jewish people in the sending of His Son to atone for the sins of His children from all nations. Today, we will see that this mystery has a profound impact on Paul and, therefore, it should have an impact on us as well.

### 1. Boldness

- a. I want to focus on two words that Paul uses in v. 12
- b. First, Paul says that in Christ we have "boldness"
- c. What does this mean?
  - i. Boldness stems from a settled conviction that God is clear on His purposes and able to fulfill them
  - ii. We draw this conclusion, in part, from v. 11
    1. Notice in that portion of the text that the mystery of the Gospel is according to the "eternal purpose" of God
    2. The point is that this mystery was not a plan b, instead the Lord simply brought about ALL that He had purposed from before time!
    3. God never has to pivot! There will not be a moment whereby He panics or changes directions and this brings us conviction that God can be trusted and we can loudly proclaim His settled plan as revealed in His Word
- d. When Paul shared the Gospel truth that all men could be saved in Christ, he could do so with boldness, knowing that God would indeed honor His proclamation of the truth

### 2. Confidence

- a. Over the years, I worked some part time jobs for bosses who were constantly changing their minds
  - i. There were few things in life more frustrating than telling a customer something I was told only to hear later that we had changed directions!
  - ii. The result of understanding his shifting mentality was that I was very timid
- b. The inverse of this example is true of God

- i. We can boldly proclaim Gospel truths knowing that the Lord is going to stand upon and fulfill all that He has revealed
- ii. The mystery of the Gospel was always the plan... and it always will be

### 3. Access

- a. Notice here that Paul throws a word in between boldness and confidence and that term is “access”
- b. The little word is loaded with biblical significance
- c. The questions we should be asking is “access to what?”
  - i. The answer, of course, is the Lord
  - ii. In the previous chapter and verse 18, we learn that we have access to the Father
- d. That access comes by virtue of the Son
  - i. He has died for our sins, breaking down the wall of hostility that our transgressions erected between us and a holy God
  - ii. He has made it possible for us to commune with God by the indwelling Spirit
  - iii. He beckons us to boldly approach His throne of grace with CONFIDENCE
  - iv. Perhaps we could add to this idea as expressed in Hebrews by saying that our access to God gives us boldness and confidence
- e. Folks, we don’t do Gospel ministry with confidence and boldness because we esteem our own gifts or abilities
- f. Instead, we do Gospel ministry with confidence and boldness because we have access to the God who can do all things and who has promised to use us in a mighty way
- g. Do you take advantage of the access that you have?
  - i. Are you pressing into prayer believing that He hears you?
  - ii. Are you searching His Word trusting that His Spirit, who dwells within you, is able to teach you?
  - iii. Are you sharing the truth in faith that your Words can be used by the God who has adopted you into His family for His glory?