

Made to Minister

August 16th, 2015

Ephesians 3:7-11

“Of this gospel...”

Gospel: means “Good News”!

- ❖ “This gospel” was everything Paul had written to this point in his letter!
- ❖ The gospel is more than John 3:16 – the gospel encompasses all that Almighty God has done for us and has given us in Jesus!

“I was made a minister...”

Minister: means Servant!

- ❖ Paul took no credit for the desire and heart that motivated him to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ!
📖 Acts 9:15-22

“According to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of His power...”

- ❖ Paul knew that his calling was a gift of God’s grace and that Jesus was the inspiration and power behind all that he did.

Colossians 1:28-29 “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”

📖 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given,...”

- ❖ Paul knew the pain and regret of his past life and he lived in awe of God’s mercy!
📖 1 Timothy 1:12-17

“To preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,...”

- ❖ The “unsearchable riches” are captured in words like: Redemption, Forgiveness, Inheritance, Hope, Salvation, Revelation, Rule, Power, Authority, Dominion, Fullness, Grace, Healing, Reconciliation, Unity, Peace, Partakers, Heirs!

“To bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,...”

- ❖ People are in the dark with regard to God!

Matthew 4:16 “the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

- ❖ People walking in darkness will embrace a worldview that is contrary to God’s Word...

... Atheism *Psalm 14:1 “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.”*

... Pluralism *Isaiah 45:5 “I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides Me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know Me,”*

... Relativism *John 12:48 “The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”*

... Evolution *Ephesians 3:9* “and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,”

... Naturalism *Colossians 1:16* “For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.”

❖ Jesus came as a light revealing the truth!

📖 *John 1:1-5,17*

John 8:12 “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

❖ Paul knew that God had called him to be a light to the Gentiles!

Acts 13:47 “For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

❖ Paul had this ministry by the mercy of God!

📖 *2 Corinthians 4:1-18*

Acts 20:24

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Endnote:

- ♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.