



With hope that this page will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check this page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. May the ideas presented here bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ.

**Thursday January 4, 2024**

**Today's Scripture:**

**Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that *through the church* the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.**

**~ Ephesians 3:8-10**

**Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):**

Paul knew what his purpose in life had become. By his own account, he knew he was the least deserving of all the saints, yet who among us is deserving of God's grace? No, not one. That's why it's grace. St. Paul just knew and believed beyond any doubt that he was to share and spread the concept of grace. It was his single most important goal. Is it ours in the church?

See, Paul gives us a simple truth today that we dare not ignore. That is, it is *through the church* that the mystery of God's wise plan for the salvation of the world should be spread. That's why Jesus initiated His church and that is why it still endures to this day. It's supposed to spread the good news about Jesus. But forgive me friends, I am inspired to ask, "*Have we lost touch with that purpose?*"

Many folks today go to church for social contact. They go to church to confess their sins. They attend church services to read and hear scripture. They wish to hear and see a sermon presented by a supposed learned person who may have some insight to share. They go to praise God and sing glory to His name. They go to engage in the sacrament that Jesus gave us that we may remember Him and what His sacrifice is/was all about. But let's face it, does a person really need to go to church to do any of those things?

Cannot anyone accomplish any or all of those purposes on their own with others outside the church? Rarely, if at all, do a whole lot of people have anything at all to do with the church that reflects helping others understand the wonderful mystery of Christ. Attending and serving at church has become a lot about self and a little about others - even less about serving Almighty God.

Friends, as 2024 gets underway, let us commit to the same purpose as St. Paul. Let us commit to seeking ways to accomplish the true purpose of the church - to help The Lord grow His kingdom by spreading the gospel *through our efforts* to do so. Let us heed Paul's reminder to the Ephesians that our single most important purpose/task/job of the church is to bring others to Christ.

**Prayer:**

***Glorious God, Your riches are boundless and Your mysteries of salvation given to be searched. Thank You for inspiring Your servant Paul to unreservedly and fully committedly spread the gospel of our Lord and Savior. His purpose to serve You by using the church to share the wisdom of Your plan was apparent and admirable. Lord, may we be more like Paul. May we come to realize that our most important task in the church, through the church and by the church is make everyone see and understand what salvation is all about. may it be so this year that we do a better job of this purpose than ever before. In the perfect name of Jesus and in His service we pray these things, Amen.***

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that *through the church* the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

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