

## Who We Are, Why We're Here

Ephesians 3:1-13 - 10/23/16

### \*Ephesians 3:1-7

The gospel!... "of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power."

### \*1 Corinthians 2:1-5

"I determined to know nothing among you, except Jesus Christ & Him crucified. I was with you in weakness & in fear & in much trembling, & my message & my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit & of power"

**2 Corinthians 5:20b** - "as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God"

### \*Ephesians 3:8-10

How do we fight for unity in our church?... As seen in our Ministry Partner (Membership) Class - one way, is by acting in love toward our church family.

**1 Peter 1:22...** "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love another from the heart"

How do we oftentimes purify things - such as water?... By boiling, or through filtration.

How else do we fight for unity in our church?... **Romans 14:19** - "So then, we pursue the things which make for peace and the building-up of one another"

At some point, you may have to just agree to disagree and "pursue the things which make for peace & the building-up of one another"

### \*Ephesians 3:11-13

"in whom we have boldness & confident access thru faith in Him"

In what ways should we come boldly and confidently before His throne?... Through our prayers, our worship, and in our listening.

**Ephesians 3:13** - "Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory"

**2 Timothy 2:10** - "For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory"

Are we willing to suffer to bring others the gospel?... Which in comparison, is little.

Will we take the time to learn & equip ourselves? Will we take the time to not only go out & tell them, but then to also disciple them... As Jesus has commanded us to?

**Colossians 1:24** - "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions"

Paul did this so that others might experience glory in heaven; may we do this as well.