

We Are Glad *You* Are Here

Sunday, July 19, 2026



sermon: "The Blessings of True Treasure" Ephesians 3:1-13

Big Idea: Recognizing our true spiritual treasure changes our attitude and approach to life.

I. Paul's Insight (vv. 1-8)

A. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles brought him many challenges and hardships. Why did he do it? Because Paul recognized God's sovereignty and calling on his life (v. 13). Paul knew that his true treasure was not anything others could provide, but it was found in Christ and His Gospel (cf. Phil. 3:4-10).

B. Paul was given insight into:

1. God's grace (vv. 2, 7-8; cf. 1 Tim. 1:12-16) – Paul understood the power of God's grace, and he felt a responsibility to proclaim this Good News to others.
2. God's purpose (vv. 3-6) – God revealed to Paul His strategy (plan) for bringing Jews and Gentiles together in Christ (v. 6). What was once hidden (mystery) was made known through Christ and by revelation.

C. Throughout all of this, Paul clearly understood the value of God's revelation in Christ, and he was willing to give everything to have that true treasure (cf. Matt. 13:44-46).

II. Paul's Attitude (vv. 7-13)

A. Paul's attitude about his ministry was forged not only by the revelation God gave him, but also by the crucible of hardship. Despite his difficulties, Paul saw God's hand working in and through his circumstances (cf. 2 Cor. 1:8-10).

B. The challenges Paul faced helped forge:

1. Humility (vv. 7-8; cf. Phil. 3:7-8) - Paul had the right pedigree and education, yet he considered these worthless compared to knowing Christ.
2. Obedience (vv. 8-9) – Paul surrendered himself to God's call on his life.
3. Boldness (vv. 10-13) – Paul knew the source of his strength, and he saw his hardship in the light of God's plan for the church.
4. Reliance (v. 12) – Paul's hardships reminded him that the battle belongs to the Lord.

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