

Vs.8- in the previous verse, Paul speaks of God's eternal gift of salvation and the purpose that God saved him

Truth- when God saves, it is us that receives the benefits (but God saves that He might get glory from it)

- "less than the least" - the lowest of the low

(Paul's actions and attitude before he was saved humbles him for his entire life)

- as Paul has just spoken of God's "effectual power", he glorifies God for His perfect righteousness

(this causes him to assess himself honestly and he considers himself unworthy of it all)

*Paul's sense of his unworthiness progresses- he states that he is least of the apostles (I Cor.15:9)

and chief of sinners (I Tim.1:15)

- "unsearchable riches" - this term means something that cannot be understood or comprehended unless it is thoroughly explained and an example is given

Truth- the Gentiles in Ephesus had no comprehension of Jesus as His life, ministry, death, and resurrection took place far from them (Jerusalem was over 600 nautical miles away and 1,100 on foot)

Vs.9- "see" - (photizo) to enlighten or to shed light on something that was unable to see before

*Paul's mission was to shed light on the fact that fallen man could now have access to the One, True God

- "fellowship of the mystery" - by redemption, all who receive Christ have the ability to fellowship with Him and each other

(he is hinting at a stewardship of worldwide proclamation of Christ and His Gospel- "all men")

- "hid in God" - God made prophetic revelation in the Old Testament of His Messiah and His plan of salvation being brought through Him (but the Gentiles had no knowledge of this prophecy)

- "by Jesus Christ" - this statement tells us that this doesn't to material Creation but rather God's formation of the dispensation of grace and mercy (this was managed and executed by Christ)

Vs.10- "to the intent" - meaning "in order that now"

- "principalities and powers" - this term is used for angels and demons

Truth- in "heavenly places" doesn't rule out demons as Satan still has access to the Throne at this time (Job 1, Zech.3, Rev.12)

*the idea here is to show that God uses His unified body of believers (Jew and Gentile) to display His broad array of wisdom to all spiritual powers and angelic beings in the heavenly realm

*all angelic beings can see the wisdom of God carried out in His redemptive work and unification

Vs.11- "eternal purpose" - this purpose is to glorify God

(this purpose includes us displaying His wisdom in our daily lives)

*the purpose of God is for Christ to complete His work, draw all men unto Him, redeem them, and then unify them so that God gets all the glory- this wisdom is far beyond any human reasoning

*when the angels see this, they also glorify God (Luke 15:10)

Vs.12- "In whom" - this is meaning Jesus

- "boldness" - (parrhesia) freedom and fearlessness, assurance, or confidence

*the idea of this word includes a freedom of speaking (prayer)

- "access" - (prosagoge) an approach due to the acceptance of the one being approached (this is from the assurance that He is favorably disposed toward us)

- "by the faith" - this is the belief in what He's told us is in fact, true

Vs.13- "faint not" - that you don't lose heart, be discouraged, or give in to evil

- "tribulation" - (thlipsis) a pressing together, pressure (metaphorically- oppressed or afflicted)

Remember- this is a prison epistle but Paul's imprisonment didn't mean that the Word was bound, or that God's purpose had failed, or even that Paul was off his path of duty

- "which is for your glory" - he is reminding them that even through troubles and suffering, God produces glory

Vs.14- "For this cause" - so that they will see the truth of what he just stated in vs.13

- "bow my knees" - Paul is entering the Throne of grace to ask God to keep them strengthened, encouraged, and on the right path

Truth- the Ephesian Christians loved Paul deeply and were saddened when they knew he would never be able to be with them again- Acts 20:36-38

