

## **Minister of Christ's Riches Ephesians 3:7-10**

### **Introduction**

NJFK—Turkish fabric—manifold colors; display of beauty and skill → God's manifold wisdom

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

1. Divine Gift (7-8a)
2. Personal Purpose (8b-9)
3. Ultimate Goal (10)

### **1. Divine Gift (7-8a)**

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given,

Of this gospel—good news; news that brings joy

v.6 Through the gospel Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, partakers of the promise in the Messiah Jesus

Minister—*diakonos*

According to the gift of God's grace—  
undeserved favor

Given to me by the  
Working—energizing  
His power—*dunamis*

A God thing

To me the “leaster” (less than the least) of  
the saints (people who belong to God,  
therefore holy)  
Paul knows he did not deserve this privilege.

This grace was given—not just undeserved  
favor of receiving salvation, but of receiving  
the responsibility to serve the gospel to  
others

## **2. Personal Purpose (8b-9)**

to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable  
riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for  
everyone what is the plan of the mystery

hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

Paul's job description

To preach—evangelize—the ethnicities

Unsearchable riches of Christ—so great you cannot search it all out; certainly what Christ gives (forgiveness, reconciliation, power, inheritance)—but what Christ gives comes from the infinite riches He has (1:19 the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints)

Colossians 1:16 All things were created through him and for him

To bring to light (*photizo*) for everyone

The plan—the economy (*oikonomia*)—management plan

Mystery—once hidden, now made known

Hidden in God, the creator of all things

### **3. Ultimate Goal (10)**

so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

So that through the church

Manifold—variegated, many-sided—like a many-colored robe

Wisdom—*sophia*; knowledge applied—skillful living

Rulers and authorities—ranks of angelic beings

In the heavenly places—the heavenlies  
5x in Ephesians

1:3 Every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies

1:20 Christ seated at God the Father's right hand in the heavenlies

2:6 Having been saved by grace, God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenlies

3:10 The rulers and authorities in the heavenlies

6:12 Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies

John Stott: "the unseen world of spiritual reality" (35)

What is it about the church that would display God's manifold wisdom?

Focus here—the unity of all ethnicities who make up the people of God through Christ

There is beauty to orchestration, to variety working together in a unified way, that displays the glory of God.

