



Life Group Study Notes
“We Are Family: Outreach”
Ps. James Lowe - August 18, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to briefly answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who was a neighbor that you especially liked when you were growing up? Why?
- What is one non-profit organization or missionary that you admire? Why?
- Who is someone who has helped you in a way that you especially appreciated?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Today we're focusing on the third word in our church name: Bethel World *Outreach* Church.

Ephesians 3:7-10 (ESV) 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. 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Sometimes we can come to the place where we lose our passion and drive to engage in the advancement of God's kingdom, even though we may have been passionate and active in the past. To maintain such passion or simply initiate it in the first place we must grasp the greatness of what God has done for us in Christ and what he will do in the future when Jesus returns.

1. We must remember who we were apart from Jesus. Paul viewed himself as the least of all God's people because of his past sins. All of us were sinners by nature and by choice, separated from God and without hope, liable to divine judgment and eternal death.
2. We must appreciate the overwhelming mercy, goodness, and grace of God given to us in Jesus. God didn't have to send his Son into the world to suffer and die for our sins. God didn't have to provide for our reconciliation to himself, our transformation, and our eventual deliverance from the justice he will execute against all who are guilty and reject him. But he did more than this. He has adopted us into his family and promised us a great inheritance.

3. We must embrace the hope of what he has promised concerning the future. We are central to his eternal purpose, which he is bringing about through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus will return to the earth from heaven at the appointed time to bring the fullness of his kingdom to this world. Evil will be purged from the earth, the dead will be raised, all will be judged, those who trusted him will be rewarded with immortality and honor, the earth will be renewed, and God's glory will fill the entire earth.
4. We must realize that God is now revealing his wisdom and power of redemption to people around the world and to the heavenly beings, both good and evil, who influence this world. God is engaged in a great mission of rescue and restoration. It is the greatest of all works being done in the world. There are many good things being done in this world, but nothing is greater than God's mission of redemption.

With all this in mind we should ignite or renew our passion for God and the advancement of his purposes in the earth today. Everyone who has come to know Jesus and the forgiveness of God is called and commanded to tell others about God's grace and plan. If we didn't deserve this great salvation that he is giving us through Jesus, then we should turn around and seek to bring it to others no matter who they are. As Paul wrote in Romans 10:12-13 (ESV):

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Is your passion for God and engagement in his mission the same, less than, or more than it was in the past?
- What motivates you to tell others about God's grace and plan?
- What hinders you from telling others about God's grace and plan?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for his grace and plan given us through Jesus Christ.
- Ask God for our hearts to be captured and ignited by the Gospel.
- Ask God for fresh power and grace to tell others about Jesus.