

A Vision for the Church

Ephesians 1:15 - 23

I. Introduction

“Paul wishes them to understand the place which they, as God’s people, have in the divine purpose.” - Peter O’Brien

II. Three Things We Need to Know to Grasp the True Significance of the Church

A. We need to know the hope to which he has called us.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

B. We need to know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Malachi 3:17 “They shall be mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.”

C. We need to know the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.

1 Kings 19:11 – 13 And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

III. Conclusion and Application

“All other works of providence may be looked upon as appendages to this great work, or things which God does to subserve that grand design. The work of redemption may be looked upon as the great end and drift of all God’s works and dispensations from the beginning, and even the end of the work of creation itself; yea, the whole creation.” – Jonathan Edwards

“The story of creation really is a love story, the story of a bridegroom who will stop at nothing, not even the cost of his own life, to win for himself a bride, and to present her to himself radiantly beautiful, spotless and pure.” – Michael Lawrence

Ephesians 3:7 – 11 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...

If the Church is at the Center of God’s Eternal Purpose in the Universe, shouldn’t it be at the Center of our Lives?