

Grace Is an Asset: Are You Investing It?

Ephesians 3:1-13

Key Thoughts

1. **The mystery is now revealed.** For ages it was hidden, but in Christ, Gentiles are fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of the same promise. What was always God's plan is now made plain to all, not handed to a privileged few.
2. **Grace is a stewardship.** The word Paul uses (oikonomia) means household management, asset management. The grace we receive is an asset entrusted to us, and assets are meant to be invested, not buried.
3. **We invest grace by giving it away.** Grace multiplies the same way we received it, by telling others. Go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. As grace is shared, it grows.
4. **God's power works through lowly servants.** Paul calls himself the least of the saints and a servant (diakonos, a "dust kicker"), yet God's effective power works through him to display God's manifold wisdom through the church.
5. **A faithful life is not an easy life.** Paul invests everything and sits in prison for it, yet refuses to lose heart. Spiritual forces oppose our "grace portfolio," but we keep investing and trust God for the harvest.

Discussion Questions

1. In Ephesians 3:1-6, what was the "mystery" that had been hidden for ages, and why was it such good news for the Gentiles? Why do you think it mattered enough for Paul to sit in prison over it?
2. Paul describes God's grace as a stewardship (household management). Read Matthew 25:14-30. How does the parable of the talents shape the way you think about the grace you have received?
3. The sermon said we invest grace the same way it came to us, by telling others. Where have you seen grace multiply when it was shared? Where have you been tempted to bury it instead?
4. Paul calls himself "less than the least of all the saints" (Ephesians 3:8). How does remembering where God brought you from change the way you serve and share the gospel?
5. In Ephesians 3:10, God's manifold wisdom is displayed through the church to the principalities and powers. What does it mean that your ordinary life in this church is part of God's cosmic display?
6. Personal: Paul kept investing his grace capital even when it cost him his freedom. Have you ever been burned sharing your faith and hung it up? What is one concrete step you can take this week to start investing again?

Applications

1. **Invest one piece of grace.** Identify one person who needs to hear the good news and take one concrete step toward telling them: a conversation, an invitation, a prayer together. Do it within seven days.
2. **Name where you buried it.** Reflect on one place you stopped sharing or serving because you got burned. Confess the fear to God and ask Him for the courage to pick it back up.
3. **Steward your role in the body.** Find one way your ordinary participation displays God's wisdom (serve, encourage, disciple, pray with someone) and follow through this week.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace You have lavished on us, grace we did not earn and could never deserve. Thank You that the mystery hidden for ages is now ours: in Christ, we are fellow heirs and members of one body. Forgive us for the times we have buried the grace You entrusted to us out of fear or discouragement. Give us the heart of Paul, who counted himself least yet poured out everything for the sake of others. By Your effective power at work in us, make us faithful stewards who invest the unsearchable riches of Christ. And when it costs us, keep us from losing heart, for Your eternal purpose was always the plan and it will not fail. In Jesus' name, amen.