

Week 15  
A Captive Perspective  
Ephesians 3:1-3  
Bethany Lay

Chapter 3 begins with the words, "For this reason..." When you see this in Scripture, take a moment to go back and see learn the context of the statement to follow.

To this point in the book of Ephesians, we have learned that God called Paul to make known the mystery of His plan, and that plan is to bring the Jews and Gentiles together in unity. Paul's efforts to bring this unity among believers caused a riot in Ephesus. Unbelievers who profited from building idols were losing business as Paul shared the truth of the Gospel, and this angered them. As a result, Paul was put in prison where he then wrote the letter to the Ephesians.

The very reason for Paul's letter to the Ephesians, to teach them God's plan, is the reason for Paul's incarceration. Yet, the words that follow are a bit unexpected. He calls himself a "prisoner of Christ Jesus". He does not consider himself a prisoner of Rome. While this is true, he sees beyond that. He is a prisoner of Christ. In obedience to God's call, Paul was thrown in prison.

When we are called by God to do something, our success is not in the approval of man. Our success lies in our obedience to the call. Paul did exactly what God called him to do, and as a result, he finds himself in prison. But this does not discourage him. He is a prisoner of Christ, so while he sits in his jail cell, he continues to complete the work that God called him to do...make known the mystery of His plan.

Question: Are you obeying what God has called you to do or are you holding back because you fear man's response?

Walk it Out: Ask God to show you how you can obey His call...and then do it.

Prayer: Dear God, please forgive my lack of faith when I give in to the fear of man. Help me to rest in knowing that if You have called me to do something, You will be faithful to complete the work that You begin. Man cannot thwart Your plans. I cannot thwart Your plans. All I must do is obey. Help me to obey.