

# *God's Glorious Grace*

**Ephesians 3:1-13**

**The Great Secret: The Church**

**God Does The Unexpected** (vs. 1-6)

**We Do The Unlikely** (vs. 7-13)

## Think Small (vs. 7-8a)

– *I was made a servant...*

- Root idea: to wait tables. See [Luke 10:40](#); [Jn 12:2](#).
- One who simply knows how to follow instructions, to do what he/she is told! See [I Cor 3:5-7](#).

– *the least of all...*

- ‘leaster’ – less than the least!
- See [I Tim 1:12-17](#).
- See [Rom 12:3](#).

This is not neurotic self-abasement, but genuine humility: knowing in truth who God is and who we are – not utterly worthless, but utterly unworthy!

**Think Small** (vs. 7-8a)

**Be Faithful** (vs. 8a-11)

Great privilege with great responsibility

- A treasure – not to squander but to faithfully steward
- See **1 Cor 4:2** *steward* = the chief household servant obligated to faithfully carry out the master's will.

## Think Small (vs. 7-8a)

## Be Faithful (vs. 8a-11)

Great privilege with great responsibility

– Dispense God's unfathomable riches (vs. 8)

- *Untrackable* – too vast to ever be fully explored!
- Riches – see 1:7; 1:18; 3:16
- *The Millionaire* TV series...
- Our assignment: to dispense God's incalculable spiritual wealth to His intended recipients whose lives will be forever changed.

## **Think Small** (vs. 7-8a)

## **Be Faithful** (vs. 8a-11)

Great privilege with great responsibility

- Dispense God's unfathomable riches (vs. 8)
- Bring God's light to all mankind (vs. 9)
  - The mystery/secret has now been made public.
  - God is the one who 'turns the lights on' in a person's heart (see 1:18; John 8:12; 1:4-12).
  - God's role is to bring people to the light, ours is to bring the light to people!

## **Think Small** (vs. 7-8a)

## **Be Faithful** (vs. 8a-11)

Great privilege with great responsibility

- Dispense God's unfathomable riches (vs. 8)
- Bring God's light to all mankind (vs. 9)
- Witness to heavenly beings (vs. 10,11)
  - There's a larger, cosmic drama being played out on Planet Earth. (See 6:12; Job 1,2;)
  - Angelic beings keenly observe what God is doing here (I Pet 1:10-12; I Cor 1:22-25, 30) – especially our salvation, Christ's for sin & victory over death.
  - The gospel drama goes way beyond our salvation alone, serving the larger purpose of God's glory.

**Think Small** (vs. 7-8a)

**Be Faithful** (vs. 8a-11)

**Glory in Troubles** (vs. 12-13)

This is highly unlikely perspective if we're tethered to this world – but highly likely the more we come under the influence of *God's Glorious Grace!*

- James 1:2-4, 12, 17; I Pet 1:2-9; Rom 1:18 ff.
- Boldness and confident access (Heb 4:16) enable us to experience of God's Glorious Grace in the midst of suffering!

*We Do the Unlikely* – Eph 3:7-13

**Think Small** (vs. 7-8a)

**Be Faithful** (vs. 8a-11)

**Glory in Troubles** (vs. 12-13)

**Our Response**

***Roger*** or ***Wilco***?

Roger = “message received”

Wilco = “will comply”