



November 22, 2015  
Elevation | 10:45 am  
Pastor Eric Wakeling

## Calling Before Comfort Ephesians 3:1-13

### We are stewards of God's grace. Ephesians 3:1-3

*"if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you." (v.2)*

- **Oikonomia** – stewardship, management of a household, business or other concern on behalf of someone else. A steward was responsible for taking care of that which belonged to someone else.
  - God owns everything.
  - God has given us His grace. We are stewards by His grace. He has also made us a steward of that grace. We are to then share that grace with others.
  - 1 Corinthians 4:1
- **Steward your gifts - 1 Peter 4:10**

### We are called to give God's grace to a specific group of people. Ephesians 3:4-7

*"to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (v.6)*

- Give the grace of the "promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel"
- Give the grace of being "fellow members of the body" - Better Together!
- Give the grace to everyone. The Gentiles were the heathen, the unclean, the adversary, the occupier and the enemy. They were called to steward God's grace even for them.

#### TO BE SPECIFIC -

### Our calling is infinitely more important than our qualifications. Ephesians 3:8-9

*"To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles, the unfathomable riches of Christ." (v.8)*

- Paul considered himself the least of all saints and look what God did through him.
- Calling from God is the foundation to stand upon when everything else falls apart.

## **We all are called to the eternal purposes of God.** Ephesians 3:10-12

*"This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord." (v.11)*

- We all have unique sense of calling from God to specific things but primarily we are ALL called to the great purposes of God to share the gospel and be ministers of reconciliation.
- Ephesians 2:7 and 3:10 - There is an impact that we have on the future and on the heavenly realms. There is a larger, cosmic scope to what God is doing here that is incredibly astounding.
  - Hebrews 12:1 - great cloud of witnesses

## **Therefore! Therefore what? Calling Before Comfort.** Ephesians 3:13

*"Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are for your glory." (v.13)*

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

**Section Discussion:** Is there a specific group of people that you have sensed a calling from God to share the gospel? Or are there specific persons to whom you feel called to share the gospel? Discuss any discomfort with sharing with them.

## **Next Steps:**

1. **Spend time in prayer** for the group of people or specific people that God has placed on your heart.
2. At some point in the next six weeks **invite someone to eat with your family for a Thanksgiving or Christmas celebration.** Consider how you can show hospitality by opening up the place you live to others, even people who are less than comfortable for you.
3. **Invite someone to attend a Christmas program or service at some point in the next month.** Use these programs and services as tools for you to share God's grace with others. Find out more about Calvary's Christmas services and events in the Calvary Quarterly (available in the Lobby) or at [calvarylife.org/christmas](http://calvarylife.org/christmas)