

Sermon Series: *Identity*

6/21/26, “Troubled Waters,” Eph. 3:1-13, MEV

INTRODUCTION

MAIN IDEA: Trust God with all things—even the things we don’t understand. Why? Here are three reasons.

I. First, revelation (2-6)... *He gives insight needed at the time*

Administration: to be manager of a household, managing

Mystery: a secret, something hidden

Revelation (*apokalupsis*): disclosure, uncovering, unveiling

A. personal (Paul, 3)

1. God revealed to Paul the mystery of equal heirs
2. God revealed it to apostles & prophets

B. progressive (5)

1. God reveals truth incrementally...OT: God would save non-Jews; NT: non-Jews equal heirs with Jews
2. God keeps partially hidden, partially revealed until time of His choosing to fully unveil truth
3. God chooses to whom & how He will reveal
4. means we must walk humbly, not knowing what has been fully unveiled, what has not

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, timing (7-9)... *His timing is perfect*

A. from the beginning, God intended inclusion of all people

1. just as He knew before creation of fall & salvation
2. just as He has known all along when Jesus will return again

B. He has set each of our lives according to His timing

1. birth, family, work, death

2. to work His will... *Paul in 62AD*

C. trusting His timing in all things requires our trusting *Him*

D. He saw us here back then & hears our prayers now

1. answering in light of His wisdom
2. answering in light of all else He sees around us
3. answering in light of our future & past

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, purpose (10-13)... *His plan is perfect*

Purpose (11): predetermination; it involves resolve & design

Wisdom: God’s wisdom, including ideas of infinite skill, insight, knowledge, purity

A. to reveal His manifold (infinite) wisdom through the church to angels & demons (10)

1. in keeping with His eternal purpose, completed in Jesus (*God redeems man by His own sacrifice*)
2. God’s redemption of humanity (church) proves His wisdom & validates His longsuffering with us
3. God justifies Himself before those condemned

B. giving us boldness & confidence in coming to Him

Boldness: freedom of speech, frankness

Confidence: trust

1. each of us, regardless of past, is granted full access
2. we come to Him trusting His full acceptance

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: