

SERMON NOTES

The High Calling of the Church

Introduction to the series on “ The Core nature of the Church.”

Ephesians 3:10

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms

1. Discuss what you think the purposes(s) of the church are?
2. How damaged is the picture of the church in the minds of the average Australian? Discuss.

The English word church comes from the Greek meaning “ belonging to the Lord.”

3. How does this fit with the role of the church?

The Greek word in the bible we translate as church in the bible though is Ekklesia which means;

“ to be called out of ”.

4. What are we called out of and unto what?

Read Ephesians 3:10

5. God’s wisdom is described as manifold. The Greek means ultra- varied or limitless. How do you view the wisdom of God?
6. Another definition of the Greek work we render as manifold is “ With the full spectrum of colour.” How does this add to your thinking?

When a beam of light strikes a glass prism at the right angle a beam of colour is broadcast as the light is broken up into its component colours. The Church is called to align itself to the will of God such that the light of his presence strikes the church and his wisdom is broadcast to all and sundry.

7. How does the church align itself with the will of God?

To what degree does this broadcast burst of colour reach out to according to the verse above?

8. If the rulers and authorities are both holy angels and fallen angels why does this seem to matter so much to God?

For extra understanding read 1 Peter 3:19. One view is that Jesus preached to the fallen angels who left their stations during the time prior to the flood and were then bound in chains in dark dungeons probably in hell. This throws some light on Ephesians 3:10 as to why such a realm needs to see the wisdom of God.

The Church then is like a glass prism. We are called to orient ourselves to the will of God so his creative wisdom is spread out in all it’s beauty to this realm and the spiritual realm as well. This gives God the glory. This is our role.