

SERMON OUTLINE - 072918 - 9th a. Pentecost
“For This Reason!”
Ephesians 3:14-21

Intro - Our chapter, Chapter 3, begins with the words of our title. Did you notice that our lesson also begins with “for this reason”? So, what’s the “reason” St. Paul’s talking about? And what’s Paul doing (or, going to do) as a result of “the reason”?

I. Well, **YOU** are “the reason.”

A. You are Gentiles gifted with precious faith in Jesus, our Savior.

1. Until Paul’s ministry, the only group of Gentiles having heard the Gospel were Samaritans (sort of “half Jews”).

2. St. Paul was “Commissioned” to bring the love of God in Jesus Christ to people who weren’t Jewish at all.

B. Consequently, in a very real sense St. Paul is our “Father in the Christian Faith.”

1. “Justification by faith alone” is Pauline Biblical terminology, our heritage from Martin Luther (cf. Rom. 3:21ff.).

2. “Justification” means to be “declared innocent” as a result of our Savior’s cross by God’s grace through your faith: God’s gift to you (Eph. 2:8&9 & Rom. 8:1)!

II. So, what did Paul do about **YOU** and **YOUR SALVATION**?

A. He got down on his knees and thanked God (Eph. 1:15ff.)!

B. He got down on his knees and prayed that. . .

1. Your very inner being would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

2. Christ might dwell in your heart through faith.

3. Being grounded in love, you might understand the complete extent of the love Christ has for you, which surpasses *all* other knowledge.

C. Finally, Paul praised God for His work (Eph. 2:10) in you, saying. . .

III. “To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus!”

A. Because of Christ Jesus, *we’re the church!*

B. God’s given us **good reason** to bring Him glory.

C. What *glory* have we brought Him?

D. Isn’t this worth contemplating, considering all that He has done for us?