

## Key Concepts to Be Addressed

- God's manifold wisdom is now made known through the church
- The hostile spiritual powers are shown the reality of God's wisdom by the existence of the church as "one new man" (Eph. 2:15)
- God's eternal purpose and wisdom is revealed and accomplished by God's action in Christ
- We must believe what God has revealed about His eternal purpose in Christ

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## God's Multi-Faceted Wisdom

### Ephesians 3:10a (HCSB)

This is so God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known...

- This wisdom is now known because God willed to reveal it
- Paul prayed that the church would be enlightened about this (Eph. 1:17, 18)
- Multi-faceted is a compound word that intensifies "many-sided"

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## The Church and the Heavenly Realm

### Ephesians 3:10b (HCSB)

...through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

- God is the direct agent, and the church is the intermediate agent He makes known
- The "rulers and authorities" are mentioned in Eph. 1:21 & 6:12
- We do not directly speak to these beings

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## The Purpose of the Ages

### Ephesians 3:11 (HCSB)

This is according to His eternal purpose accomplished in the Messiah, Jesus our Lord.

- God acts with purpose, and His purpose is "of the ages" and accomplished in Christ
- "according to" is *kata*, which here implies "according to the standard" (Hoehner)
- God's essential attributes lead to the conclusion that His purpose will happen

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## Implications and Applications

- Whatever establishes and nourishes the church furthers God's purpose vis-à-vis the hostile powers
- The church is not under the hostile powers and should act accordingly
- We need to be grounded in what is revealed and not be derailed by human sentimentality or wisdom

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## The Strength of God

### Ephesians 6:10,11 (NASB)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that **you will be able to stand firm** against the schemes of the devil.

- Our job is to be the people of God who stand in the truth
- The devil's schemes are to deceive and accuse; we stand in the gospel

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## Appeal to God Only

### Jude 1:9, 10a (NASB)

But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these men revile the things which they do not understand

- We are not to directly address spirits in the heavenly realm
- God is in charge of heavenly rulers

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## Grounded in Revealed Truth

### Jude 1:3 (NASB)

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was **once for all handed down** to the saints.

- "Once for all" implies that we have full and final revelation
- The false teachers rejected the moral implications of the gospel (vs. 4)

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