
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 10/13/2019

“Gospel Encouragement for Gospel Suffering” from Ephesians 3:1-13 by Drew Hunter

Overview

This unique section of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians highlights the fact that though the suffering all Christians face is discouraging, we can take heart from the three encouragements that follow in this text:

- 1) The discouragement of suffering (v.1, 13)
- 2) The encouragement from the gospel story (v.2-6)
- 3) The encouragement from the gospel mission (v.7-9)
- 4) The encouragement from the gospel church (v.10-12)

Quotations

“C.S. Lewis said that friendship begins whenever someone says, ‘You, too?’”

“Once we are sure that the gospel is both truth from God and riches for mankind, nobody will be able to silence us.” -John Stott

Understanding & Application

- 1) What was Paul doing that led to his imprisonment? What specific threat(s) was he facing?
- 2) As a man/woman of biblical integrity with regard to your morality, sexual integrity, and worldview, what threats are you facing today?
- 3) How does the suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world today and throughout history (including Paul in this text) provide perspective for our present suffering?
- 4) How are we to understand Paul’s use of the word “mystery” in verses 3, 4, and 6? Is Paul saying the gospel is confusing or puzzling?
- 5) How would you explain to a new Christian the fact that Paul is in chains yet is still overflowing with joy?
- 6) Interact with John Stott’s quote above. In what ways does it challenge or convict you?
- 7) What does this text have to say about the role of the local church amidst suffering? How have you seen the local church minister to those facing suffering or grief?