THE CHURCH’S GOAL

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Text/Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Thesis: The Church’s goal is to glorify God as He works in us.

Introduction: What is our goal? Big numbers? buildings? programs? bank accounts? influence? hearts? God’s grace shown to members of Church (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14) leads to the goal of the Church—showing evidence of His “glory in the church.” In this “the greatest of all Paul’s prayers,” the Church’s goal is to glorify God as He works in us.

I. God works to edify us through faith. 16, 17a
   A. Faith in the Father’s strength 6:10; Col 1:9-12
   B. Faith in the Spirit’s enabling 2Co 4:16; Ro 8:9; 1Pt 1:3-11
      [Text Note: In the inward man. The redeemed soul. Same expression in 2Co 4:16 (in contrast with the outward man) and in Rom. 7:22-25.]
   C. Faith in the Son’s fellowship Rev. 3:20
      [Word Study: dwell. fr. κατοικέω katoikeo, to be at home.]

II. God works to establish us in Christ’s love 17b-19a; Col 1:21-23
   A. Knowing the love of Christ personally Rom 8:35-39
   B. Knowing the love of Christ with the community 1Pt 2:4, 5
   C. Knowing the love of Christ completely

III. God works to fill us up to His own fullness. 19b, 22-23; 4:13-16
    [Word Study: filled, fullness. fill, make full; to make something total or complete. Best trans. filled unto (or, up to) the fullness of God. The ultimate goal for followers of Christ, as in Mt 5:48, is to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Cf. Rom 8:29 (“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”) for our final likeness to God in Christ. (Robertson) Also, Col 2:9, 10, “…in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” See other Eph. passages, w/ John 1:16.]
IV. God works to secure His own glory. 14-15, 20-21

A. Glory according to His incomprehensible power Isa. 6:3

B. Glory manifested in a perfected Church 14-15, 21; 5:25-27

C. Glory that endures forever Isa. 60:19

Conclusion: Psalm 40:2, 3 - “He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD.”