

Episode #3-02 – Ephesians 3 Part 3: Boldness and Access with Confidence

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. Ephesians 3:12. One of the most amazing truths in the Bible must be the truth that we have boldness and access with confidence to God. To understand this we must realize two things: how undeserving we are, and how awesome God is.

III. Seeing God is a big deal.

A. Exodus 33:18-23. Moses wanted to see the LORD in all His glory, but the LORD tells him he cannot do it, for no one can see Him and live. Moses can see his back, but not His face.

B. Numbers 12:5-8. Prophets hear from God in visions and dreams, but Moses speaks with Him face-to-face. Yet this was with His glory veiled. It was a great privilege to see Him, and so it was very wrong for Miriam and Aaron to speak against Moses.

C. Leviticus 10:1-3. Only fire that the LORD had kindled could be offered to him. The LORD must be honored by all those who come near Him.

IV. We can see how great He is by the responses of those who see Him.

A. Job.

1. Job 1:8. Job was a righteous man like no other. When all his trouble came upon him, he insisted he had done nothing wrong, and even suggested he could win at an argument with the LORD about it.
2. Job 42:1-6. Job learns the "end of the Lord:" that a true encounter with the LORD leads to magnifying the LORD and abhorring oneself. This can help us to realize among those we meet who has truly encountered the LORD and who has not.

B. Isaiah.

1. Isaiah 6:1-4. Even the greatness of the seraphim pales next to the LORD. Isaiah describes the LORD's robe, and the seraphim, and the movement of the temple, but he has no words to describe the LORD.
2. Isaiah 6:5. Isaiah comes to the same end that Job did.
3. Isaiah 6:6-7. He is forgiven.

C. Daniel.

1. Daniel 10:4-8. Compare to Revelation 1: this hierophant appears to be Jesus Christ. Daniel's comeliness is turned into corruption in his own sight compared to the LORD.
2. Daniel 10:9-10, 15-19. For all the greatness of his former visions, Daniel cannot stand the presence of the LORD, and has to be strengthened three times.

D. Peter. Luke 5:4-8. Peter responds just like Job and Isaiah. He suddenly realizes his own sinfulness.

E. John. Revelation 1:12-18. John, who had been with Christ for three years, the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had reclined on His bosom at the last supper, falls at His feet as if dead when seeing Him in His glory.

F. The great heavenly beings. Revelation 4:6-11. Even the great heavenly beings are in awe in His presence.

G. Acts 26:13-15. Paul was in the Lord's presence, and it changed his life.

V. The exclusiveness of entering the temple.

- A. The author of Hebrews knew what it meant to pass into the presence of the Lord in the tabernacle. Hebrews 9:6-8.
- B. Archaeologists have discovered a plate in Greek that was posted in the temple, “No foreigner is to go beyond the balustrade and the plaza of the temple zone. Whoever is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his death which will follow.”
- C. There were boundaries that it became more and more exclusive for one to cross when entering the temple.

VI. Romans 3:10-18. None of us is righteous and worthy of entering the presence of the sinless God. Yet we, fallen corrupt sinners that we are, are given boldness and access with confidence.

VII. Conclusion: Like the king’s child who can come into his presence without fear, we can come before God’s throne with boldness. In Christ, we have access to God with confidence. How can we ever thank God enough for such a staggering and unbelievable gift? How can we ever truly grasp the greatness of the privilege that is ours?