

The all time best plan ever

Ephesians 1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

I. Intro

- A. God has a plan, His plan is BEST, His plan is BLESSED.
- B. A plan for the redemption of mankind
- C. A plan for GLORY brought to himself
- D. A plan for a way to express genuine love for creation
- E. I like to plan, but my plans don't always work out.
- F. God's plan, set in place before time, is to unite all things together in the fullness of time!

II. Text

- A. Recap:
 1. Knowledge, Wisdom, Insight
 2. Gnosis, and epignosis
 3. Knowing something is considered gnosis
 4. Full discernment, or insight is considered epignosis
 5. So, in insight/understanding we have a next step in knowledge, working knowledge.
- B. Literal translation:
 1. With a view to, an administration, suitable to the, fullness, of the times, that is, the summing up, of all things, in Christ, things in heavens, things on the earth, in Him.
 2. NASB: with a view to an administration [fn]suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things [fn]in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- C. As a plan for the fullness of time:
- D. To unite all things IN HIM
 1. To sum up all things...to unite all things...(KJV) gather together all things
 2. This is a huge concept:
 - a) All the Mystery, all the wonder, all the power, all the majesty, all the confusion, all the confidence, all the truth...comes together in the PERSON of JESUS CHRIST!
- E. Things in heaven
 1. The heavenly realm is a mystery to us
 2. We don't fully understand or comprehend
 3. And, we don't interact well with it, But God is there and says fear not.
- F. Things on earth
 1. We have a place here, and sometimes we forget this is not our home.
 2. This is our mission field, we shall be found working in this field until the fullness of time.

III. Points

- A. A plan for the fullness of time
 1. Time in its fullness: complete after a long series of events
 2. God's plan has a lot of moving parts, and many generations of moving parts and people.
 3. A plan so complex that we are still wrestling with it today.
 4. This plan is:
 - a) A known mystery
 - b) That takes faith
 - c) Allows for growth
 - d) Provides Grace
 - e) Challenges our obedience
 - f) And is perfect in every way!
 5. Times and seasons are special markers in our spiritual journey:

- a) The times change
 - b) The seasons change
 - c) But, God doesn't change, so we have a God who's plan all along was to work in this way.
 - d) This brings confidence and insight to the work and to the faith walk.
6. Don't forget how we got to this verse: We are chosen in Christ, and it is His plan coming to completion that allows us to experience this security.
- B. Heavenly and Earthly Realm:
- 1. Heaven and Earth Interacting:
 - a) Host of angels praising God and saying...Luke 2:8-14
 - b) Unseen Army: 2 Kings 6:17-20
 - c) Isaiah's vision of the throne room: Isaiah 6
 - 2. The Heavenly realm and the earthly realm are vastly different
 - 3. Yet, all things come to FULL connection in Christ.
 - 4. The Throne of heaven and the manger scene were very different in appearance, yet they are completely connected because of Christ.
 - 5. That which is real, and under the sovereign rule of God, has now been connected in the Person of Christ.
 - 6. Jesus Christ brought the two realms together in His completed act of salvation:
 - a) The sovereign choice
 - b) The sacrificial death
 - c) The supernatural resurrection
 - 7. This plan, now complete, and being brought to completion.
- C. Unite and Connect all things:
- 1. The word used in ESV "Unite" is simply not enough
 - 2. This concept is much larger than unity, though until is a part
 - 3. This concept is not fully understood in "summing up all things" as some translations handle it.
 - 4. This concept is a statement of the completed work in salvation and in fulfillment of God's plan for the redemption of mankind, and the glory of Himself.
 - 5. God's big and beautiful plan is now CONNECTED in every way
 - a) There was never any doubt as to "if" it would happen
 - b) There was always a struggle on earth to BELIEVE it would happen in faith.
 - c) And then Christ became flesh, and did His work, and brought completion to the task.
 - 6. Oversimplified summary of this complex concept:
 - a) God is good.
 - b) God loves us.
 - c) God had a plan from the beginning.
 - 7. We need to not lose sight of the simple when we are studying the complex!
- IV. Close