

“Access to God the Father,” *Ephesians 3:1-13*, page 1143

Introduction:

1. In our scripture lesson today, the apostle Paul is describing the new covenant that has been made available to us.
 - A. *Verse 6: “...the Gentiles should be fellow heirs....”*
 - B. *Verse 11: “the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
2. Paul is assuring the Gentiles in Ephesus that they also can have salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. This salvation gives them (us) access to God the Father.
4. This is an almost unbelievable change from what had been taught in the Old Testament law.
5. We should be thankful for the dispensation of grace. What a great privilege!
6. This privilege—access to God through Jesus Christ—also contains some serious pitfalls that we must avoid.

I. Come boldly, but with reverence.

- A. Jesus Christ has made it possible to personally go directly into the presence of God.
- B. We should, however, never take this privilege lightly or for granted.
- C. I believe we often are far too casual in our approach to God.
 1. Man upstairs.
 2. Big boss in the sky.
- D. It was not that way in the Old Testament.
 1. *Leviticus 16:1-4*, page 117.
 2. *Psalm 111:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”*
- E. Even our life style should be carefully evaluated in respect to coming boldly into His presence with reverence.
 1. Words we use concerning God’s name.
 2. Old Testament scribes would not even use the same pen to write the names that were used to identify God.
 3. I believe we lower our reverence to God when we casually use words that identify God.
- F. I have a lot of respect for my dad, and I would never use his name in the following manner:
 1. Hit my thumb with hammer—“Oh my Delos, did that hurt!”
 2. “Good Delos, was I surprised!”
 3. “My Delos, help us.”
- G. It would seem to me that we should show even greater respect to our heavenly father.
- H. Come boldly, but with reverence!

II. Come boldly, but with humility. *James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."*

- A. All we are and all we have are direct gifts from God.
- B. It would be very foolish if we came boldly to God:
 - 1. God, look at my life. God would say: "Yes, I know; I gave you that life."
 - 2. God, look at what I have accomplished with my spiritual gifts. "Yes, I gave you those spiritual gifts."
 - 3. God, look at my goals and plans. "Yes, I directed your thoughts and gave you that positive vision."
- C. We have nothing to brag about, and God is not impressed with our accomplishments.
- D. Jesus shows us that He could do nothing apart from God. *John 5:19: "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.'"*
- E. Jesus cautions us to make our plans subject to God's intervention in our lives. *James 4:13-17*, page 1184.

III. Come boldly but with servitude.

- A. The New Testament disciples acknowledged their position as a servant to God.
 - 1. *Romans 1:1: "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God."*
 - 2. *James 1:1: "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings."*
 - 3. *II Peter 1:1a: "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ."*
 - 4. *Jude 1: "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James."*
- B. It is a good thing to realize that we can go boldly to God with our worship, praise, and prayer concerns.
- C. It is a wise disciple that understands our position as servant to almighty God.
- D. Come into His presence knowing that we are a servant, fully understanding that He is our creator and our God!
- E. *"Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name."*

Conclusion:

- 1. God created us to have fellowship with Him.
- 2. Jesus urges us: *"Come unto Me."*
- 3. The Holy Spirit draws us to God.
- 4. What a privilege to come boldly and with confidence to God, our heavenly father.
- 5. Always remember as His children we must come:
 - A. Reverently.
 - B. Humbly.
 - C. As a servant.