

“THE CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN”

Ephesians 3:11-13

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INTRODUCTION

How can I tell God what I am doing if I don't believe that He knows what He is doing?
And, how can I trust God in what He is doing if God does not know what He is doing?

This is the dilemma that we face in Ephesians 3:11-13. When we look at the world around us, at times all looks chaotic and purposeless. Is anyone really in control?

Certainly the world of Paul's day had no more optimism about the way the world was working (or disfunctioning!) than does the world of our day. It seemed as though the Lord had made a mess of His people Israel! Now more recently He had sent His Son into the world, only to have Him rejected and killed by the world's inhabitants.

What was He doing? Does He even know what He is doing? Maybe He knows, but He is out of control?

We saw last week that the Church is God's message to the universe—even to the heavenly hosts. Paul's answer to the above questions is that God knows exactly what He is doing. In fact, all that had taken place with Israel and now with the formation of the New Testament Church was in total conformity with God's “eternal purpose,” and He is in process of working out that eternal purpose of His. **He certainly is in control!**

Paul shows us in this passage that *God knows what He is doing (11)*, that consequently *I can tell God what I am doing*, and that *I can trust God in what He is doing*.

***God has a plan for the ages, and He is working out that plan. You and I are a part of that plan, and we must submit trustingly to His sovereign purpose for our lives.**

I. CERTAINTY: GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING (11)

A. God's Eternal Purpose—“purpose of the Ages”

B. Christ's Execution of the Plan (11b)

God carried out His plan in His Son: Christ Jesus our Lord

II. CONFIDENCE: I CAN TELL GOD WHAT I AM DOING (and what I need) (v. 12)

A. Boldness—Free speech

B. Access—into His royal presence

C. Confidence

D. Faith (trust) in Him—the completed work of redemption in Christ

III. COMFORT: I CAN TRUST GOD IN WHAT HE IS DOING (v. 13)

A. Do not despair nor be discouraged.

B. Don't Despise troubles in yourself nor in others.

They are your glory (Jas. 1:2ff; Mt. 5:11-12)

CONCLUSION

The joy of the Lord should fill our hearts at all times!

In Everything!

Yes, we must have **Certainty**—God knows what He is doing.

Confidence—You can tell God what you are doing

Comfort—You can trust God in what He is doing.

Confess your doubts, discouragement, and depression!

Accept His **certainty, confidence, and comfort.**

Do you have assurance of Salvation?