

Now to Him!

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

The book of Ephesians is six chapters long and is broken right down the middle into two sections. The first three chapters are focused on the teaching and theology of what we could call the gospel doctrine. The next three chapters focus on the application of that teaching and how to turn gospel doctrine into everyday gospel living. Sandwiched between the theology and the application is what theologians call doxology. Doxology is worship, or better yet, a short burst of praise and acclamation of glory to God. And what I want you to see here is that the fly overview outline and structure of the book of Ephesians serves as a good model for our lives as Christians. Hear the preaching of the gospel. Respond to the preaching of the gospel with praise to the God of the gospel. And out of that praise to Jesus go and practice a life that is founded, devoted, and sold out to Jesus!

The opening phrase in Paul's doxology, "Now to Him," is the driving force of both our praise and practice of the Christian faith. We devote everything to Him because of the blessings of grace that we find in Him. That's a lot of "Him," I know, but isn't it all about Him? Are you living a life that says to the onlooking world, "Now to Him?" Or is your life saying "Now to me..." This is a question worth examining for us as a Christian community too... Are our ministries and churches saying: "Now to us" or are they, as Paul points us to "Him?"

I am afraid, and I am not excluded from this exhortation. Please know that is never the case, as I am a sinner in need of grace and every day help in my walk from God Himself. But I am concerned that so many of us forget the Godward compass of the Christian life. So many of us have our hearts pointed in the wrong direction. And since our hearts are in the wrong direction, our hands and feet become pointed in the wrong direction. And when our hearts, hands, and feet all point in the wrong direction, unfortunately, we point others in the wrong direction. And so this is a call to holy Christian living. This is a call to a life that is defined, says, and shouts: "Now to Him!" This calls for a life that says with all of creation and the God worshippers of old: "Glory!" (Psalm 29:9).

And so dear Christian, hear the preaching and teaching about Him... Learn about His grace, mercy, and love in the gospel. Be edified and equipped in sound doctrine. And when your vision of God is increased by the illumination of the Word of God. Then respond in faithful praise and adoration unto Him... And live a life that is fully all about Him! This is the "Now to Him" way to live, the ONLY way to truly live in the here and now!

"Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ... To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen" (Romans 16:25;27).

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis