The Messenger
& The Message

Ephesians 3:7 & 8
“When I consider the magnitude of the subject which I am to bring before the House—a subject, in which the interests, not of this country, nor of Europe alone, but of the whole world, are involved: and when I think, at the same time, on the weakness of the advocate who has undertaken this great cause—when these reflections press upon my mind, it is impossible for me not to feel both terrified and concerned at my own inadequacy to such a task. But when I reflect on the encouragement which I have had, through the course of a long examination of this question, and how conviction has increased within my own mind, —when I reflect, especially, that however opposed any gentleman may now be, yet we shall all be of one opinion in the end; —when I turn myself to these thoughts, I take courage—I determine to forget all my other fears, and I march forward with a firmer step in the full assurance that my cause will bear me out, and that I shall be able to justify upon the clearest principles, every resolution in my hand, the avowed end, the total abolition of the slave trade.” — William Wilberforce
Ephesians 3:7 & 8

3:1-6 The mystery and mission
3:7 & 8 The messenger and the message

Main Idea:
When the message is Christ, God equips the messenger
The Messenger

Minister – servant, attendant, slave

• Who or what do you serve?
The Messenger

Minister – servant, attendant, slave

V. 7 The messenger is equipped by God’s grace and power

I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. – Colossians 1:25-29
The Messenger

Minister – servant, attendant, slave

V. 7 The messenger is equipped by God’s grace and power

V. 8 The messenger is humble and grace dependent

V. 8 The messenger is relentlessly focused on the message
The Message

V. 7 The gospel is the message
V. 8 The unsearchable riches of Christ is the message
The Gospel & Implications

• Chap. 1 - Chosen, loved, adopted, redeemed, trespasses forgiven, the word of truth, sealed by the Spirit, receivers of resurrection power

• Chap 2. The dead raiser and life giver, united with Christ, saved by grace, receivers of kindness, strangers brought near by the blood of Christ, union with other believers, reconciled to God, built into the church

• Chap 3. A mystery revealed, the eternal purpose of God, confident access to God through Christ, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

• Chap 4. God in Christ forgave you.

• Chap 5. A sacrifice of love & a fragrant offering, from children of darkness and disobedience to children of love and light, Marriage - Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her in order to make her holy, Christ unites Himself to His church,

• Chap 6. The armor of God, belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of readiness given by the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God...
The Message

V. 7 The gospel is the message
V. 8 The unsearchable riches of Christ is the message
  • The riches of Christ are unfathomable and inexhaustible
Unsearchable Riches of Christ

• His grace is rich 1:7
• His glorious inheritance is rich vs. 1:18
• His mercy is rich 2:4
• His kindness is rich 2:7
• His glory is rich 3:16

Do you know you are rich?
Are you sharing your riches in Christ?
Ministers of the gospel are to preach Christ! V. 7 & 8
What is the responsibility of the elder and the church?
• Pray for our boldness and courage. Ephesians 6:19