

**Appreciating my role in God's
big picture
Eph. 3:8-21**

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- **Paul understood his purpose was just one part in a bigger plan, Eph. 3:8-12**
 - Grace was given him
 - His purpose was to preach to the Gentiles
 - “unsearchable riches”, “mystery”
 - The wisdom of God is now seen in the church
 - We can have boldness and access with confidence to Him through faith

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- **Paul did not want the Ephesians to worry or be discouraged, Eph. 3:13**
 - **Paul was merely fulfilling his role by suffering persecution, which was for their “glory” and benefit**

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- **Because Paul did not want the Ephesians to be weakened, he offers a prayer for them, Eph. 3:14-21**
 - **That they will be strengthened with might through the Spirit in the inner man**
 - **That Christ will dwell in them by faith**
 - **That they will be filled with all the fullness of God – character of Christ**
 - **To God be the glory who is able to do more for us than we can ever know**

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- **Do we appreciate our role?**
 - **That we are not the “be-all and end-all”; there is a much bigger picture at work than we can know - providence**
 - **That we are here to edify and encourage, not murmur or discourage...there is a reason for our trials**
 - **That through faith we can have the fullness of God in us, and in so doing be useful to Him – example, servant, etc.**

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- **What's the point?**
 - **To appreciate that much more the “calling” and to heed it – 4:1-6**