

VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN CHRIST

Introduction – Does our secular education prepare us for jobs in the real world? We have been called by Christ to be a transformational community. It is this community where we train for our various vocations in Christ.

A. Paul was not an admired hero in the first century.

Ephesians 3:1,13

1. The Jews opposed Paul's emphasis when converting Gentiles as the Galatian letter reveals.
2. The Gentiles admired leaders who were dynamic in oral rhetoric in contrast to Paul the writer; the Corinthian letters make that clear.
3. Paul reinterpreted his life situation in spiritual terms.

B. The Greatest Mystery Story Ever

Ephesians 3:2-6

1. God's full purposes for us remained a mystery until it was made clear in Jesus.
2. A major purpose is to unite all humanity in one body.
3. The gospel is the power of God that enables us to become heirs, members, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

C. The manifold wisdom of God is made known in us.

Ephesians 3:7-12

1. God's vision is for us to become humble servants of the gospel by God's grace.
2. Rulers and authorities in the heavenly realm can see God's eternal purpose fulfilled as rebels are transformed into righteous servants.
3. This radical transformation allows us to approach God with freedom and confidence.

Conclusion – Our vocation in Christ requires education and training. You have graduated from the school of Christ when your life attracts outsiders and you know how to reach them for Jesus. God is creating this kind of transformational community by the power of the Spirit in us.

Ephesians 3:20