Title: I Am United

Text: Ephesians 1:9–10

**Target:** You are not just part of God's plan, you are proof of it.

You are <u>afforded</u> a Sacred Privilege: "Making known to us the mystery of his will," (Vs. 9a)

a. Opened by Eyes: "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." (Col. 1:27)

**Question:** How does realizing that "Christ in you, the hope of glory" changes the way you see your identity and your worth in God's plan?

Cross-reference: 2 Corinthians 4:6 – "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts..."

**Question:** In what ways do you think God is still "opening your eyes" to see His mystery more clearly? What blinds you from seeing His glory daily?

Cross-reference: Acts 26:18 – "to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light..."

**b.** Opened my Heart: "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)

Question: How have you personally experienced God taking away a "heart of stone" and replacing it with a "heart of flesh"?

Cross-reference: Psalm 51:10 – "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

**Question:** Why do you think God must first change our hearts before He can fully use us in His mission?

Cross-reference: Jeremiah 31:33 – God writing His law on our hearts.

- **2. You are <u>assigned</u> to a Kingdom Purpose:** "according to this purpose, which he set forth in Christ" (Vs. 9b)
  - a. You were the Mission: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

Question: How does it impact you to know that Jesus' entire mission was to come for you?

Cross-reference: Romans 5:8 – "God shows his love for us in that while we were still

sinners. Christ died for us."

**Question:** What lies or doubts keep you from believing you were worth the mission of Jesus?

Cross-reference: Isaiah 43:4 – "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you..."

b. You are on Mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19–20)

**Question:** What does "making disciples" look like in your everyday context (workplace, family, friendships)?

Cross-reference: 2 Timothy 2:2 – "entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

Question: What fears or excuses often keep you from living out the Great Commission, and how can God's promise ("I am with you always") help overcome them?

Cross-reference: Acts 1:8 – "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

3. You are <u>appointed</u> for a <u>Divine Moment:</u> "as a plan for the fullness of time," (Vs. 10a)

a. His Timing is Perfect: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law." (Galatians 4:4)

**Question:** Looking back at your life, where do you see God's perfect timing at work—even in delays or setbacks?

Cross-reference: Ecclesiastes 3:1 – "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

**Question:** How does trusting God's timing free us from anxiety or impatience in seasons of waiting?

Cross-reference: Habakkuk 2:3 – "For still the vision awaits its appointed time..."

**b. His Purpose is Unstoppable:** "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2)

**Question:** How can we live with greater boldness knowing that nothing and no one can thwart God's purposes?

Cross-reference: Isaiah 14:27 – "The Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it?"

**Question:** What circumstances in your life feel like obstacles right now, and how does God's sovereignty reshape how you view them?

Cross-reference: Romans 8:28 – "All things work together for good..."

- **4. You are anointed to bring Heaven to Earth:** "things in heaven and things on earth." (Vs. 10b)
  - **a. Given Authority:** "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18)

**Question:** What does it mean practically to exercise the authority Christ has given you in your home, workplace, or community?

Cross-reference: Luke 10:19 – "I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions..."

**Question:** How can misunderstanding spiritual authority lead to misuse or fear instead of kingdom impact?

Cross-reference: Acts 19:13–16 – Sons of Sceva trying to use authority they didn't possess.

**b. Bring Deliverance:** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." (Luke 4:18)

**Question:** What does it look like in today's world to proclaim liberty and healing to the oppressed, and how can you live that out personally?

Cross-reference: Micah 6:8 – "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God."

**Question:** How does knowing you are "anointed" shift the way you approach conversations, prayers, and even conflicts?

Cross-reference: 2 Corinthians 1:21–22 – "It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us..."

**Takeaway:** You don't just represent the Kingdom, YOU RELEASE IT!

Where do you sense God calling you to release His Kingdom this week?