Ephesians 3:11-13

1. From the beginning, even BEFORE the beginning, the purpose of history was Jesus Christ.
2. God’s purpose was “realized” – *epoiesen* – in Christ Jesus, who is our Lord.
   a. “realized” – *epoiesen* – means “make, manufacture, construct, cause”
   b. *Epoiesen* is translated as:
      i. NIV – “accomplished”
      ii. RSV – “realized”
      iii. NEB – “achieved”
      iv. AV – “which he purposed”
3. The main point here is that all that God planned and is accomplishing is achieved, literally, “in Christ, who is Jesus, our Lord.”
   a. The eternal – Lord.
   b. The messiah – Christ.
   c. The humanity – Jesus.

Ephesians 3:12 – “in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.”

1. Now, what does this mean to us today? From this lofty, cosmic explanation what is the mere mortal Christian to do with this information?
   a. We have “boldness” – *parresian* – means “freedom of speech, openness to speak one’s thoughts, confidence”. It is the absence of fear and shame. *Parresian* used in the Greek
political world describes the freedom of speech citizens of the democratic city-states enjoyed. The citizens had the right to speak with candor and without fear
i. Hebrews 4:16
ii. Hebrew 10:19 –
iii. Many times in the NT, but also 4 times in 1 John 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14
b. We have “access” – prosagogen – meaning “approach, access, admission”. It is used 3x in the NT and always refers to having direct access to God to have an audience with him.
   i. Romans 5:2
   ii. Ephesians 2:18
   iii. Ephesians 3:12 – (here)
c. We have “confidence” – pepoithesei – “confidence, trust, reliance”

2. All this is “by the faith”, which means our understanding based on the Truth we know. “Faith” does not mean wishful thinking, positive attitude, abandoning logic or believing the impossible. It means because of the information we know we can understand the information that is yet unseen.

Ephesians 3:13 -“So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”

13 Εἰς τὰς θλίψεις μου ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν, ἠτίοστιν δόξα

Therefore I implore [you] not to lose heart at the tribulations of me for you which is glory

1. Paul is in prison and some may wonder how he can be living victoriously in Christ while chained by men. The victory of God is in Christ, not Paul. It is in knowing the Truth, not being physically free.
2. Paul did have opponents in the church who used his imprisonment to build their ministries on his as is seen in Philippians 1:15-18
3. The Ephesians are to be encouraged because God’s purpose is moving forward even in this situation
4. Also, even though Paul is in chains he is still communicating with the churches by letter and messengers. All is well.
5. Paul’s imprisonment will end up placing him in front of the Roman emperor and the imperial court where Paul will fulfill a portion of his ministry to the Gentiles. See Eph. 6:19; Philippians 4:21 and 1:13