

**"The Revelation of God's Mystery"**

**Ephesians 3:1-21**

**Part 4**

**Introduction:** In our study of Ephesians 3 we have been looking at the revelation given to Paul concerning the mystery of the church.

**Notice Ephesians 3:1-6**

The mystery was that in the church the Jew and the Gentile become fellow heirs. We all become one new man which had never existed before.

**Ephesians 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> *Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

The good news was that the Jews had rejected their Messiah, so God turned to the Gentiles to take a people for Himself. Those who would come to Jesus Christ would become part of the body of Jesus Christ and would be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.

**Ephesians 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

When we who are Gentiles turn to Jesus Christ we are grafted into the place of blessing.

**Romans 11:17**

<sup>17</sup> *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;*

The branches that were broken off are unbelieving Jews and now God has turned to the Gentiles who are the wild olive branches. We are not grafted into the Nation of Israel, but we are grafted into the place of blessing. This is the message which Paul was entrusted with.

Paul will now go on to describe his ministry.

**I. Paul's Placement into the Ministry**

**Notice Ephesians 3:7**

Paul was made a minister. The word "minister" means "waiter". Like a waiter carries what others need and delivers the goods to them so Paul carried that which would meet the greatest need of all people and that would be the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Notice Ephesians 3:7 again.**

The responsibility of sharing the Gospel was a gift of grace given to Paul by God. In other words, it was God's grace that allowed Paul to share the greatest message the world has ever known. To take that thought even further we see in this verse that it is God's power that enables the message to accomplish its purpose.

There are several verses that come to my mind here.

**Romans 1:16**

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

**Isaiah 55:10-11**

*<sup>10</sup> For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:*

*<sup>11</sup> So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

**Notice Ephesians 3:7 again.**

The word "effectual" here is very important. It refers to supernatural power. Let me show you how this word is used in other verses.

**Philippians 3:21**

*<sup>21</sup> Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

The power which Paul is speaking of is the very power that will change our bodies into glorified bodies. This is the power which Paul declared worked in him.

**Colossians 1:29**

*<sup>29</sup> Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.*

**Application:**

As I read this, I am reminded of the gift of God's grace with which God has also given to us the opportunity to serve the Creator of the universe. Not only that but our service is also accompanied by the mighty power of God.

We have talked about this before, but I want to remind you that we have been entrusted with the powerful message in the entire world. It is the Gospel and it is the power of God unto salvation to change lives. When we proclaim the Gospel, and someone places their faith in Jesus Christ their lives are changed forever.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ sets people free from the enslavement of sin.

**John 8:34-36**

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

<sup>35</sup> And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

<sup>36</sup> If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**Notice Ephesians 3:8a**

This verse gives the idea that Paul could not believe the God would use him. He saw himself as the least of all the saints. This verse shows the humble spirit within him.

**Application:**

Maybe Satan has convinced you that because of what you have done in your past that God could never use you. Let me remind you that you are no longer the same person you were before you were saved. You are a new creation. The past is forgiven, and it is forgotten. Let us notice what Paul was like before salvation.

**1 Corinthians 15:9**

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

**Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-2**

*And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

*<sup>2</sup> And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.*

*<sup>3</sup> As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.*

*And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,*

*<sup>2</sup> And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.*

Paul was a terrorist. He hunted down Christians and sentenced them to death. If God can use a terrorist, He can certainly use each of us.

When I was putting this message together, I thought of some reasons why people do not get involved. Their past is one reason, and another is because they have no experience. We need to know that experience is not a qualification for serving the Lord.

### **Jeremiah 1:4-9**

*<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*<sup>5</sup> Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

*<sup>6</sup> Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*

*<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*

*<sup>8</sup> Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.*

*<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

**Notice Ephesians 3:7-8a again.**

It is the grace of God that provides all we need to do what He calls us to do.

**Ephesians 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

## II. The Wealth in the Message

### Notice Ephesians 3:8b-9

We see in this verse two facets of wealth:

#### 1. The unsearchable riches of Christ.

There are several ways we need to consider this thought:

##### a. These riches can only be found in Jesus Christ.

The word "unsearchable" means "untrackable". Let me tell you what this means. The riches that are IN CHRIST cannot be found anywhere but in Him and those who look for them apart from Jesus Christ always come up empty. The unsaved man or woman cannot find these riches apart from hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These are the riches that bring lasting satisfaction in the sinner's heart. These are not like the riches this world offers.

### John 15:5-7, 11

<sup>5</sup> *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

<sup>6</sup> *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

<sup>7</sup> *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

<sup>11</sup> *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Many look to religion in their search for spiritual riches. These people only get caught up in the traps of the enemy.

Let me show you what God said about the religious leaders of Isaiah's day.

### Isaiah 59:5

<sup>5</sup> *They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.*

The false teachers of religion hatch poisonous eggs and they weave spider webs. This means what they teach is deadly and it becomes like the spider's web in that it traps its victims. Those who look to religion are like those Jesus spoke of in the Sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 7:26-27**

*<sup>26</sup> And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

*<sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

**b. These riches belong to ever believer.**

We have a wealth of spiritual riches which belong to us, but the sad thing is that many believers live like they are spiritually broke. I have known people who lived in poverty and then came to find out after they died, they had several hundred thousand dollars in the bank.

This is the very way many believers live. They live defeated lives because they never access the power given to them. There are those who live in a bitter state every day because they have never made use of the joy they have in Christ.

Let me show you yet another facet of wealth.

**2. The fellowship of the mystery.**

Not only are there spiritual riches in Christ but there is also fellowship with the saints. This is a great wealth in itself. There is a fellowship within the body of Jesus Christ that the world knows nothing about.

This is something that has been under attack in the past months in our Nation. Livestream is good but it cannot replace what we get when we are gathered together as the body of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 10:22-25**

*<sup>22</sup> Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised 😊)*

<sup>24</sup> *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

<sup>25</sup> **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, *as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

### III. The Power of the Revelation

#### Notice Ephesians 3:9-13

The revelation which Paul was called to preach was not even known by the angels. It was hidden in God from eternity past. Now that Paul had this relationship with Jesus Christ, he gained from these three things:

- a. Boldness
- b. Access
- c. Confidence

Paul did not want these Gentiles to be discouraged by his tribulations for they were for the Gentiles gain/glory.

#### Conclusion:

Paul was made a minister of the mystery which was the Gospel. He was so determined to reach the lost that he was willing to suffer and even die to with others to Jesus Christ. Paul refused to be distracted by the world, he refused to be pulled away by the lusts of the flesh. He knew he had a small window of time to serve in and then it would be gone. He therefore gave all he had to disperse what God had given to him.

How do we view what has been entrusted to us?