

L11 | The Dispensation of Grace | Ephesians 3:1-12

I. Intro/Review:

- **Three Graces to Grow in**
 1. The conclusion (Rom. 3:28), manifestation (Rom. 3:21), and declaration (Rom 2:25-26) of the death, burial, and resurrection with all its implications.
 - The Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. Justification
 - b. Sanctification
 - c. Glorification - (i.e. - resurrection)
 - d. Wisdom

II. Preview:

2. The unsearchable judgments to usher in the dispensation of the grace of God.
 - a. Prophecy - Acts 3:19-21
 - b. Mystery - Romans 16:25-26; 11:25, 33ff; Eph. 3:1-12
3. The mystery of Christ that details God's purpose for the dispensation of the grace of God with the body of Christ and its future implications with the Israel of God.
 - a. Reconciled Heavenly Places - Col. 1:15-20 (vocation, election, calling)
 - b. Reconciled Earth - (vocation, election, calling)
 - c. Gathered together in One - Eph. 1

III. Sermon:

2. **The unsearchable judgments to usher in the dispensation of the grace of God.**

- **Romans 11:33ff** - "...how unsearchable are His judgments"
 - **{Psalms 89:14}** - Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.
 - Man knows God's judgments as He reveals them to man
 - **{Ephesians 3:8-12}** - Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; {9} And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: {10} To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, {11} According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: {12} In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.
 - "unsearchable riches of Christ"... "who created all things by Jesus Christ"
- There were judgments and riches of Christ not revealed to man, but given to the apostle Paul to reveal, but until that time were hid, were unsearchable - a category of revelation

only given to Paul.

- Romans 9-11 Context
 - {3-4} - Paul's kinsmen according to the flesh (Israelites)
 - {5} - whose are the fathers
 - {7} - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - Gen. 12:1-3 - Abrahamic Covenant ("promises")
 - {22} - "willing to shew His wrath...vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:"
 - Rom. 2:5 - "...wrath against the day of wrath..."
 - Dan. 7:24-27 - "troublous times" - the time of Jacob's trouble
 - Isa. 13:9, 13
 - Zeph. 1:14-18
 - Matt. 3:7-10
 - Ps. 2:1ff
 - Ps. 110:1-7
 - Acts 7:54-60
 - Heb. 10:11-13 (Heb. 9:24-28)
 - Feast Days
 - Passover
 - Unleavened Bread
 - Firstfruits
 - Pentecost
 - Trumpets
 - Atonement
 - Tabernacles
 - **Romans 9:22** - "...endured with much longsuffering"
 - **1 Tim. 1:12-16** - "...that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering,"
- **The Judgment**
 - Romans 11:11-15, 25-26
- **The Dispensation of the Grace of God**
 - Romans 9:23 - "Make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy"
 - Rom. 11:30-32 - "mercy upon all"
 - 2 Cor. 5:18-21
 - **Dispensation** - stewardship of certain things and instructions for the obedience of whom it is given - a program for education to the purpose of God
- 1. A dispensation of the gospel (1 Cor. 9:16-17)
 - Romans 3-4 - The conclusion (Rom. 3:28), manifestation (Rom. 3:21), and declaration (Rom 2:25-26) of the death, burial, and resurrection with all its implications.
- 2. A dispensation given for the Gentiles (Eph. 3:1)
 - Includes Israel, but priority is the Gentiles

3. A dispensation of the grace of God (Eph. 3:2)
 - All grace
 - Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding
4. A dispensation to reveal the mystery (not prophecy)
 - Part of the grace
 - The mystery that has fellowship with prophecy

IV. Conclusion: