

L79 | Ephesians | "The Revelation of the Mystery of Christ" | Eph. 3:1-7

I. Intro/Review:

1. Eph. 3:1 - "this cause" - picks it back up in v.14
 - Eph. 2:19 - "the household of God" - not households
 - Eph. 2:21 - "in whom all the building" - in one - Jesus Christ | "an holy temple in the Lord"
 - Eph. 2:22 - "in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

2. Eph. 3:1 - "I Paul" - Paul profile (contact point of God's final revelation of God's Son - Jesus Christ)
 - "the prisoner of Jesus Christ"
 - "for you Gentiles"

3. Eph. 3:2 - "if ye have heard" - they have heard
 - "the dispensation of the grace of God" - given me to you-ward
 - Gentiles
 - Believers
 - Unbelievers

 - Acts 13:38ff (context v14-37)
 - Acts 13:38 - "...that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:"

 - Acts 13:39 - "And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

 - Acts 13:42 - "...the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath."
 - :43 - "...persuaded them to continue in the grace of God."

 - :44 - "...whole city together to hear the word of God."

 - :45 - "...Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy"
 - "spake against those things which were spoken by Paul"
 - "contradicting and blaspheming"

 - :46 - "necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you" (Jews)
 - "we turn to the Gentiles."

 - :47 - "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."

 - :48 - "And when the Gentiles **heard** this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord"

- 1 The. 2:14
- "...as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."
- :49 - "And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region."

II. Preview:

- Revelation of the Mystery
 - Revelation
 - Mystery of Christ

III. Sermon:

How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
 {Ephesians 3:3-4}

- "how that by revelation"
 - "revelation" - disclosure of truth, a laying bare, an uncovering, making naked
 - Usage
 - Luke 2:32 - "a light to **lighten**"
 - Eph. 1:8-9 - "having made known unto us"
 - Eph. 1:17 - "...spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him:"
 - Eph. 3:9 - "and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery"
 - Rom. 8:19 - "waiteth for the **manifestation** of the sons of God."
 - Rom. 16:25 - "according to the **revelation** of the mystery,"
 - 1 Cor. 1:7 - "waiting for the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
 - 2 The. 1:7 - "when the Lord Jesus shall be **revealed** from heaven"
 - 1 Pet. 1:7 - "...might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the **appearing** of Jesus Christ:"

1. The Spirit & Revelation

- Jn. 14:23-27
- Jn. 15:26-27
- Jn. 16:13-15 - "...Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
- Rom. 8:26-27
 - 1 Cor. 2:9 - "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."
 - Isa. 64:1-12 (:4)
- 1 Cor. 2:7-13

2. Paul & revelation

- Grace given to him (Rom. 12)

- "He made known unto me"
- Everything a mystery (God, what He is doing - Christ is the revelation of Himself and what He is doing)
 - 1 Cor. 4:1ff - stewards of the mysteries of God
 - Rom. 11:25 - "this mystery" - Gentile salvation through Israel's fall
 - Rom. 16:25 - "the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery"
 - 1 Cor. 15:51 - "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,"
 - 2 The. 2:7 - "the mystery of iniquity"
 - 1 Tim. 3:16 - "the mystery of godliness"
- Paul would come to them - 2 Cor. 12:1
 - Paul had an abundance of revelations - 2 Cor. 12:7 (Gal. 2:2 - going up to Jerusalem)
- Ultimately, to reveal Christ in Paul - Gal. 1:12

3. Nature of Revelation

- Knowledge of God undisclosed is mystery, secret, and hid
- Knowledge of God disclosed is knowable
- Knowledge of God that is disclosed is done by revelation - it is the making known (prophecy - yet what wasn't known was "mystery" - Deut. 29:29 - "the secret things belong unto the LORD our God:")

4. The Substance of Revelation - "He made known unto me the mystery;"

- God and the counsel of God before the world began
- Ephesians 1:8-11, 17-18
- Ephesians 2 - a household, a building where all is fitly framed in the Lord
 - This is revealed to Paul in all its wisdom
 - The good pleasure of His will is revealed to Paul concerning all things

**Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
{Ephesians 3:5}**

• "the mystery"

1. The Mystery and Relationship to Paul

1. "as I wrote afore in few words, whereby when ye read"
2. "ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ"

2. The Mystery and Relationship to Those Before Paul

1. "which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men"
2. "as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;"

**That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:
{Ephesians 3:6}**

- More on the Substance and Revelation of the Mystery
 - "that the Gentiles should be..."
 1. "fellowheirs", and
 2. "of the same body", and
 3. "partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:"

**Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by
the effectual working of his power.
{Ephesians 3:7}**

IV. Conclusion:

- This Christian unity in Christ signifies that which is heavenly - where everything is divided the church is unified in Christ.