

L76 | Ephesians | "The Dispensation of Grace & Mystery of Christ" | Eph. 3:1-7

I. Intro/Review:

- Household of God - Divine Family & Government - Hope of His Calling
 - All the Building (Time Past/But Now) Fitly Framed Together (Fulness)
 - Growth (Present - "worketh")
 - Davidic Covenant
 - Israel first
 - Gentiles offered
- Leaving Chapter 2
 1. Holy Temple in the Lord
 2. Habitation of God through the Spirit
 - Dispensation of the Grace of God
 - Mystery of Christ
 - Kingdom of God
 - Kingdom of Christ

II. Preview:

- The Dispensation of the Grace of God
 - Gentiles
- The Mystery of Christ
 - "written afore in few words"

III. Sermon:

**For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
{Ephesians 3:1}**

- **"for this cause"**
 - **"for"** - further explanation and amplification
 - **"this cause"**
 - Ephesians 2:19-22
 1. To make the household of God
 2. Frame together and grow an holy temple in the Lord
 3. Believing Gentiles built together for habitation of God through the Spirit
- **"I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ"**
 - **"I Paul"** - apostle, grace given
 - **"the prisoner of Jesus Christ"**
 - Not a prisoner of Rome - disobedience to Rome

- Prisoner for faithful obedience to Jesus Christ
- Acts 9:15-16 - once the captor, not held captive
 - Romans 1:13 - "let hitherto,)that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles"
 - Romans 15:22 - "For which cause (:21) also I have been much hindered from coming to you."
 - 2 Corinthians 11:23-27
- **"for you Gentiles,"**
 - Gentiles at large - "be saved"
 - Believing Gentile - "come to the knowledge of the truth"
 - 2 Corinthians 4:12
 - Ephesians 3:13
 - Philippians 1:7
 - 2 The. 3:1
 - Blessing go from Israel down the Gentiles - in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed
 - Blessing go to the Gentiles apart from Israel - families of the earth be blessed to the household of God without national identity to Israel, but identity to Christ
 - **"prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles"**
 - Ephesians 3:13 - "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory."
 - 2 Corinthians 4:12 - "So then death worketh in us, but life in you."
 - 2 Corinthians 4:15, 17 - "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redeound to the glory of God...for our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"
 - 2 Timothy 2:10 - "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

**If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
{Ephesians 3:2}**

- **"If ye have heard"**
 - If the Gentiles have "heard"
 - Word going out through the agency of Paul
 - "which is given me to you-ward:"
 - Colossians 1:5-6

- Colossians 1:23
 - Acts 13:16-48
 - 1 Timothy 1:10-16
 - 2 Timothy 1:8-12
- **"of the dispensation of the grace of God"**
 - Dispensation - administration of His household and His economy concerning His purpose
 - Refers back to the household cause of Eph. 2:19
 - Hebrews 3:1-6
 - :5-6 - "faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; but Christ as a son over His own house; whose house are we..."
 - The law focused on Israel primarily
 - Grace focuses on Jews and Gentiles and what is needed for both and what God can produce in Christ
 - Paul is a steward of the household of God for a testimony of those things spoken after (shadowed, figured, and typified), as well as, hid in God regarding the fulness of Christ revealed to Paul.
 - Therefore, part of this grace finds its witness with Israel and part of this grace is unsearchable and hid.

How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, {Ephesians 3:3})

- **"How that by revelation"**
 - **"revelation"** - disclosure of truth, a laying bare, an uncovering, making naked
 - Usage
 - Luke 2:32 - "a light to **lighten**"
 - 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:"
 - Paul & revelation
 - Associated with spiritual gifts - 1 Cor. 14:26
 - 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)
 - All totaled "the revelation of Jesus Christ" - Gal. 1:12
 - 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)
- 1 Corinthians 2:7-9
 1. Wisdom God ordained before the world but hidden (no revelation about it)
 2. None of the princes of this world knew (if they had it would have prevented the Lord's crucifixion)
 - There would have been things they could have known - Acts 3:19-21
 3. Eye hasn't seen this glory, ear hasn't heard this glory, the heart thought of this glory
 4. God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit - teaching by words what is in the purpose of God
- The Substance of Revelation - "He made known unto me the mystery;"
 - 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
- **"as I wrote afore in few words,"**
 - All gets written down in "few words" that you may possess it in your understanding

**Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
{Ephesians 3:4}**

- The exactitude of that which was "hid in God" can now be understood
 - Time and Scene - Ephesians 1:4 - "before the foundation of the world
 - Purpose - Ephesians 1:9, 11 - "purposed in Himself, the counsel of His own will:"
 - Making Known - Ephesians 1:8-9 - "abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; having made known unto us"
 - Prayer for Giving Revelation - Ephesians 1:17 - "...may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him:"
 - Revelation to Know - Ephesians 1:18-19 - "...that ye may know..."
 - Revelation given to Paul - Ephesians 3:2 - "if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery;"
- **"whereby, when ye read"**
 - Paul writes in few words whereby you can read them
- **"ye may understand"**

- Paul writes in few words whereby you can read and what? UNDERSTAND
 - Answer to Paul's prayer - Ephesians 1:17-18a
 - **"my knowledge in the mystery of Christ"**
 - All that God will do in, by, and through His Son
1. Eph. 1:9 - "according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself"
 - Eph. 3:9 - "...which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:...according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:
 2. Eph. 1:10 - "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him!"
 - Colossians 1:15-20

**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}**

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

**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: