

# L27 | Ephesians | "The Mystery of His Will Pt. 2 | Eph. 1:7-12

## I. Intro/Review:

- In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
  - The Laws of Redemption
    1. Laws Ordained Before the World
      - a. Determinate Counsel & Foreknowledge
      - b. The Lamb Slain From the Foundation of the World
      - c. Law of faith, law of works
    2. The Need for Provision
      - a. Creation with prudence
      - b. Angels - sin founded
      - c. Man - sin entered
        - Made in the image of God after His likeness
        - Man subject to angels

## II. Preview:

- Abounded in all wisdom and prudence
  - Having made known unto us the mystery of His will
  - According to the good pleasure of His will

## III. Sermon:

**{Ephesians 1:8} - Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;**

- **"wherein"** - the beloved; redemption; the riches of His grace
- **"He hath abounded toward us"** - Rom. 5 (where sin abounded grace did much more abound)
  - Redemption cannot compromise His estate
  - In regards to the adoption we find redemption is the depth of His love and riches and adoption the height thus the sum total of His great love and He is exceedingly rich
- **"in all wisdom and prudence;"**
  - Due to redemption God is free to abound toward us - thus bless us and does so by giving us the knowledge of His will
  - Col. 2 - in whom is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
  - 1 Cor. 2 - made unto us wisdom (what God hath prepared; the mind of Christ)
- **"prudence"** - Prudence implies caution in deliberating and consulting on the most suitable means to accomplish valuable purposes, and the exercise of sagacity in discerning and selecting them. Prudence differs from wisdom in this, that prudence implies more caution and reserve than wisdom, or is exercised more in foreseeing and

avoiding evil, than in devising and executing that which is good. It is sometimes mere caution or circumspection.

- Provide us the knowledge of His wisdom and prudence to carry out His will, that which He purpose in Himself in the counsel of His will
- Therefore, that which God choose in Christ and predestinated by Jesus Christ would be had not by creation but "through redemption" granted to those that would "have redemption".

**{Ephesians 1:9} - Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:**

- **"having made known"** - His abounding is by making known
  - Eph. 1:3 - "who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"
- **"unto us"** - 1 Cor. 2; by the Spirit - in the dispensation of the grace of God
- **"the mystery of His will,"**
  - That which was "hid" (Eph. 3:1-5, 9)
  - That which is "unsearchable" in the past scriptures (Eph. 3:8)
  - That which God "kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 11, 16:25)
    - The will of God to God is no mystery, but in its revelation a mystery to man
    - His will is no mystery to Him, but a mystery to man, as He reveals it becomes either:
      1. Fulfilled will
      2. Prophetic/promised will
      - Either one it becomes His known will
      - That which is unknown is still "mystery"
- **"according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:"**
  - Harkens back to Eph. 1:5
    1. That which God choose before the foundation of the world | holy and without blame in love
    2. That which God predestinated | the adoption of children
    - Redemption part of God's abundance of His riches to carry out His "good pleasure"
  - God's blessings of us in view of that which He choose and predestinated and prudently provided for with redemption and making it known to us is abounding toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

**{Ephesians 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:**

- **"that in the dispensation of the fulness of times"**
  - **"that"** - the purpose

- The purpose of blessing us having made known His choosing and predestination of us by having redemption
- **"the dispensation of the fulness of times"**
  - The good pleasure of His will, will fulfill its purpose here
  - More or less when of the good pleasure of His will, not what of the good pleasure of His will
  - **"dispensation"** - That which is dispensed or bestowed; a system of principles and rites enjoined; Distribution; the act of dealing out to different persons or places; The dealing of God to his creatures
    - **"steward"** - A man employed in great families to manage the domestic concerns, superintend the other servants, collect the rents or income, keep the accounts
  - **"fulness"** - all that therein is (abundance)
    - Ps. 16:11
    - Fulness without fullness
      - Full of joy - limited measure (quantitative measure)
      - Fulness - fruit of which it produces (qualitative sense)
    - 1 Cor. 10:26, 28 - "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof"
      - All that therein is
    - "Fulness"
      - Romans 11:11 - Israel's fulness
      - Romans 11:25 - Gentile's fulness
  - **"times"**
    - {Isaiah 57:15} **For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**
    - **Gen. 1:1** - God's act of "creating" starts time - hence "times"
      - Gen. 1:14 - lights in the firmament for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:
      - More than this....
    - Which times?
      - From the foundation of the world to the fulness of times
        1. Adam to Moses - Rom. 5:14
          - Abraham to Moses
        2. Moses to Christ - Rom. 5:20-21; Jn. 1:15-18
          - Moses to Daniel
          - Daniel to Christ

3. Paul to Catching Away - 1 Tim. 1:14-16; 1 The. 4; Rom. 9:22, 11:25-28
    - The Dispensation of the Grace of God
  4. Catching Away to End of the World - Dan. 9; Matt. 24
    - The Day of the Lord
  5. Millennium - Rev.; 1 Cor. 15
    - 1,000 years
- **Adam then Christ**
    - **Gal. 4:4** - "But when the fulness of time was come, God..."
      - From Adam to Christ
      - Rom. 5:14
    - **Time Past, But Now, To Come**
      - Eph. 2:11 - "time past"
      - Eph. 2:13 - "but now"
      - Eph. 5:6 - "cometh the wrath of God"
  - **"He might gather together in one all things in Christ"**
    - The what of the good pleasure of His will
      - A portion that was "the mystery of His will", but no longer hid, but "made known"
      - Part of the "fulness" is their reconciliation (Col. 1:16-20)
      - The fulness of times is God working out the counsel of His own will to have what He will that He might gather together in one all things.
        - Throughout times He is working out either getting the things on earth to be able to be gathered in one or getting the things in heaven to be able to be gathered in one.
    - **"gather together"** - that which He possesses
      - Rom. 13:9 - "briefly comprehended"
      - Implies separation unto joining - two become "one"
    - **"in one all things"**
      - **"both which are in heaven,"**
        - Government
        - Not just the removal of the curse on the earth
        - The dispossession of His enemies
        - Angels
      - **"and which are on earth;"**
        - government
        - man
      - Colossians 1:15ff

- **"even in Him:"**
  - Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15-16, 5:23; Col. 1:18, 2:10, 19
- Summary of "the mystery of His will"
  - What the mystery is not?
    - Not the creation of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1)
    - Not the creation of government in heaven and on earth (earth = Gen. 1-2, Ps. 8, Heb. 2; heaven = Job 1-2, Pro, Dan. 7-8, 10)
    - Not the corruption of government in heaven and on earth (earth = Gen. 3-4; Rom. 5; heaven = heavens are unclean (Job)
    - Not the prophesied new heavens and new earth (Isa. 65-66)
    - Not the reconciliation of the kingdom on earth (Isa. 9:6ff; Dan.)
    - Not as some suppose justification by grace through faith (Rom. 3-4)
  - What the mystery is?
    - The unsearchable judgments to usher in the dispensation of the grace of God.
    - The purpose for this dispensation of grace to reveal the mystery of Christ and take from the Gentiles through Israel's fall a people for the good pleasure of His will.
    - Take that people to reconcile the heavenly places
    - In view of the reconciled earth and the reconciled heavenly places to gather them together in one, even in Him!

**{Ephesians 1:11}- In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

**{Ephesians 1:12} - That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

#### **IV. Conclusion:**