

BIBLE SURVEY, PT 9-NT(THE EPISTLES --EPHESIANS)-“Mystery of the Chrch”

>>>>We’re in a “Bible Survey” series
 >We’ve covered OT/4 Gspels/ Bk of Acts
 >& now—we’re taking a wk each to look
 at all the major “letters” of the NT...
 >>Bec thy’re backbone of our Chr faith
 >So far--we’ve covered Rmns/ 1&2 Cor’s
 / 2-wks in Galatians(Fredm in Cst)

[ENHANCED CD OR WEBSITE]

>>>>Tdy—ready to move on Eph’ns

I-BACKGROUND

- A. The city of Eph was one of the most strategic cities in RE at x of AP-MAP
1. The western half of Turkey made up the Rmn province = “ASIA”
 2. As U can see--Eph=its main seaport
 3. As such—Eph became the 3rd most impt city in REmp(Alex’a & Rome)
 4. At x of AP—Eph had a pop of 300K
 5. & it was a magnificent city—SLIDE
 *Theatre seated 25K—SLIDE
 *Temple to goddess Diana(Atemis)
 tht-1 of “7Wonders”—SLIDE
- B. P finally got to Eph on his 3rd miss jour

& spent alms^t 3yrs there(53-56 AD)

1. Preaching Chrst/ discipling blvr's

2. Reaching pple passing thru town

*Who thn took Gspel back home

*With remarkable results

3. Acts 19:10—"All who lived in Asia (1/2of Turkey) heard the word of the Lrd, both Jews & Gentiles"

4. This is hw the othr 6 chrchs of Rev 2-3 were started-& Colossae--MAP

II- LET'S TALK AB P'S LETTR TO EPH'S

A. Ephesians—along with the next 3 ltrs

1. Philip's/Colossians/& Philemon...

2. Are referd to as "The Prison Ep's"

B. SEE--after P left Eph in 56 AD...

1. He went to Jer(A21)-whre Jwsh mob tried to kill hm--& Rns arrested h m

2. P spent 2 yrs in jail in Is(A 21-26)

3. Thn he appealed his case to Caesar & was shipped to Rome(Acts 27)...

4. Where he spent 2 more yrs in jail (61-62AD)awaiting trial(Acts 28)

C. It was during this imprismnt in Rme tht P wrote the "4 prison epistles"

E. IF U REM: we said tht P's ltrs to the

churches all follow a similar pattern

1. 1st section = theolog'l issues

2. 2nd section = prac'l Chr-life issues

III- 1st HALF & SEE WHT THELG TRUTH

A. Many comentators miss the key thlog'l truth tht AP is teaching us in ch's 1-3

B. We discover this truth by noticing the repeated contrast betw "U" & "we"

1. 1:12- "We who were 1st to hope in C

*1:13- "In Him, U also believed"

2. 2:1- "U were dead in yur trs's & sins

*2:3- "We also used to live in the lusts of our flesh"

3. 2:17- "& He came & preached peace to U who were far away, & peace to US who were near"

C. DO WE ALL SEE THIS CONTRAST?

D. So Q: "Who is 'U'...& who is 'we/ us'?"

E. Well, P answers tht Q fr us:

1. Eph 2:11- "Thrfore, remembr tht U, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called 'Uncircumcision'."

2. Eph 1:13- "U also trusted in Chrst afr U heard the Gspl of yur salv"

3. SO THE "U" = "Gentile blvr's in J

4. Eph 1:12-“WE who 1ST trusted in Christ being to praise of His glory

*Who were the 1stple to trust in J?

*Well, of crse, they were Jwsh ple

7. SO THE “WE”= Jewish blyr’s in J

E. OK—got who each group is??

[WATCH AS P MKES HIS THEOLOG PT]

G. Eph 2:12-“Remmbr, tht U, the Gentiles in the flesh(before saved P says) U

were separated frm Chrst, excluded

from the commonwealth of Israel,

strangers to Gd’s cynants of promise,

hving no hope, & w/out Gd in the wrld

1. E 2:13—“U were far off (frm Gd)”

2. E 2:19-“U were strangers & aliens

(to all Gd’s covenants & promises)”

SAY: “So P’s pt is to mke Gntiles feel bad?”

H. Eph 2:13-“BUT NOW—in CJ—U who were formerly far off (Gent’s) have

been brot near by the blood of Chst”

1.V. 14-“Fr He (LJC)is our peace, who has made both grps(J&G’s)into 1”

2. V. 15-“He made the 2 grps into one new man..reconciling thm both to

Gd in one body thru the cross.”

3. Eph 2:19—"So then, U (Gent's) are no longer strangers & aliens, but U are fellow citizens with all the saints (Jwsh & Gnt) & equal members of the household of Gd

J. In P's day, this=revolutionary truth

K. In P's day, the Jews despised Gentiles

1. They called them "dogs"
2. Thy sought to avoid all contact w/
3. Acts 22(P speakng to Jews at Tem)
4. Told thm wht hpned on Dam road
5. V. 17(P)-"& whn I came bck to Jer, I was praying & the Lrd said, 'Mke haste & get out of Jer, bc they will not accept yur tstimny ab Mehere
6. V. 21-"& Gd said to me, 'Go! For I will send U far away to the Gentiles
7. V. 22-"& the crowd listnd to P until this word (Gentiles), & then they raised their voices & said, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth! He shld not be allowed to live!'"

SAY: "Yea, but those were non-blyg Jews"

L. Sadly—the prob wasn't limited to thm

1. NT makes it clear...tht afr Gentiles

began getting saved...

2. Mny Jsh blr's discriminated ag thm
ILLT-Whn Gd sent Ptr to Cornelius(A10)

* & Cornelius & whole fam came to J

* Acts 11:1- "Now the apostles & other
Jwsh blvrs in Judea heard tht the
Gntiles had rceived the Wrđ of Gd

* V. 2- "So whn Ptr came to Jeru, they
criticized him, saying, 'Why did U
go to uncircumcised pple & eat
with them?'"

* After Ptr explained how these Gen's
had trusted Cht--& HS fell on thm

* V. 18- "When they heard this, they
were silenced"

M. But even aftr Jwsh blvr's were forced
to accept tht Gntiles cld come to Chst

1. Many--including even Ptr/Barnabas

2. Kept seeing thm as "2nd class Chr's"

3. Not fully equal with "Jwsh blvrs"

ILLU: Gal 2:11(P)- "But when Ptr came to
Antioch, I opposed him to his face,
bec he stood condemned."

* V. 12- "Fr prior to the cming of some
men frm James (Jwsh blvr's frm Jer)

Ptr wld eat wth the Gntile blvrs; but whn these men came, Ptr withdrew & separated himself frm Gentiles, fearing those of the circumcision.”

*V. 13-“& the rest of the Jwsh blvrs (there in Antioch) joined Ptr in his hypocrisy, so tht even Barnabas was carried away in their hypocrisy.”

N. **SO CAN WE SEE**—how P’s declaration here in Bk of Eph’s...

1. Tht Gentile blvr’s & Jwsh blvr’s are ***completely equal*** in Christ...

2. Tht they are (V. 2:19) “***fellow*** citizens & ***equal*** members of the household of Gd”

3. Hw ***revolutionary*** this was thlog’ly?

O. This theolog’l truth is wht P refers to (in Eph ch 3) as the “***mystery of the curh***”--tht no one knew until now

1. OT = clear tht the Gntles wld get to share in the blessings of Messiah

2. Gen 12:3(to Ab)-“& **ALL** the fam’s on earth will be blessed thru U”

3. BUT the “***mystery of the church***”

*Is tht Gd wld create a new entity

*Called “the church”...

*Whre Gntile blvr's in Chst wld be
EQUALin evry way w/Jwh blr's

4. E3:3-“By revelation(directly frmJ)
this mystery was mde knwn to me,
whch was not made knwn prev'sly

5. V.6-“Namely, tht the Gentiles are
fellow-heirs &fellow-members
of the body of Chst & fellow-
partakers of Gd's prmises in
Christ thru the Gospel.”

6. GENTILE BLVR'S...BEING:

*Equal heirs...w/Jewish blvr's

*Equal members of the body of
Chrst...w/Jewish blvr's

*Equal partakers of Gd's promises
in Christ...w/Jewish blvr's!!

IL: Tevye: this was unhrd of/unthnkable

P.BUT this=no last-minute decisionby Gd

1.Eph 3:11-“All this was in accordnce
with Gd's etrnal purpose whch He
purposed to do in JC our Lord”

Q. SUMMARIZE: The theolog'l truth P

lays out in Eph's fr us as Chr's to under

1.Gal 3:28-“In Chst, there IS no Jew

or Gentile...fr we are all **one** in Chst

2. 1 Cor 12:13—"Fr by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Gentiles...

3. **PT**-whn we meet anthr *true blvr inJ*

*Earthly diff's no longer matter !!

*Doesn't matt'r what **race** we are

/color/ lang/ culture/ finances

*Dsn't mtr if we hve **blonde** hair

/brown/black/ green/ NO hair

*We're all brothrs/ sisters in Chst

*We're **ALL... EQUAL...**in Christ

IV- SO WHAT?

A. Now—Bk of Eph's is "*chocker-block full*" of great Chr-life truth

B. I mn--U cld spend yrs going thru it!

C. But since we don't *hve* yrs--let's pick 1

D. Eph 3:20—"Now to Hm, who by the pwr at wrk within us(HS), is able to do

exceedingly abundantly more than

we can ask or imagine--to Hm be glory

1. Hey—I can **IMAGINE** a lot

2. B says—**not** tht Gd can do **MORE...**

3. But ***exceedngly abundantly more***

E. Wht Gd claiming = He is **omnipotent**

1. Tht He can do whatever he wants/ whenever he wants / however he wants/to whomever he wants/ for **whyever** reason he wants
 2. Jer 32:27-“I am the Lrd, the Gd of all flesh. Is anything too hard fr me?
- F. & bec Gd **HAS** this unlimited pwr...
1. We as his F's shld approach every sit in life/ challenge/ obstacle...
 2. With unlimited expectations...
 3. Of what God can do & will do...
 4. Acc to His perfect will for our lives
- G. Jer 33:3-“Call unto Me, & I will answer; & I will show U great & mighty things tht U know not”
1. “Expect Me to answer”
 2. “Expect Me to do mgthy thngs fr U
- IL: TOZER-“True faith is nvr found alone; it is alwys acompanied by expectation. The prsn who believes the promises of Gd always expects to see thm fulfilled *”One characteristic tht marks the avg Chr tdy is lack of expctation. Whn we pray, we don't expect anything

unusual to happen; consequently,
nothing does.”

APPL: Hw ab U, my Chr frnd? Hw abt me?

*Do we have this “**holy expectation**”?

*Do we expect Hm to “answr when we call on Hm..& to do great & mghty things tht we know not”?

***When we call on Him to:**

**Heal our broken relat’ships...

**Convict pple of their need fr Ch

**Open closed doors for us...

**Give us favor in key pple’s eyes

**Clear impss-lkng obst’s frm path

**Provide for our earthly needs

**Give us the strngth we need to
resist sin & obey God

**Do we expect Him to answer??

*Whn we pray fr prkng space, expect

*Whn pray ab lost keys..expct to find

H. ”Holy expctation”is not wishful thinkg

1.It’s the confident assurance tht whn

I call on Gd, he’s gonna aswr in pwr

2.May not alwys be exctly wht I ask fr

3. Will always be exactly what I need
for godliness & true blessing in life

CONCLUSION

>>>>B calls us as Chr's to live a life tht's saturated with "holy expectation"

*Whn we've got a prmise lke Jer 33:3
"Call unto Me, & I will answr; & I
will show U great & mighty things
tht U know not"

*& whn we've got a Gd who Eph 3:20
"is able to do exceedingly
abundantly more thn we can ask
or imagine."

*If we believe Gd—no rsn we shldn't

TIME TO COMMIT BIGEST/IMPOSS TO GD