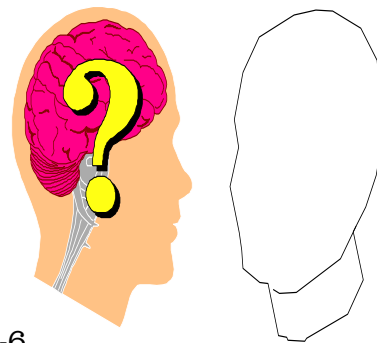


"THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS"

CHAPTER THREE



THEME: "The revelation of the mystery of Christ" Verse 3

MAIN DIVISIONS:

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|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. "THE MYSTERY REVEALED" | 1-6 |
| 2. "PAUL'S DIVINE CHARGE" | 7-13 |
| 3. "COMPREHENDING THE LOVE OF CHRIST" | 14-19 |
| 4. "GLORY TO GOD" | 20-21 |

INTRODUCTION:

Having introduced the grand scheme of things that God designed that the Jew and Gentile should have fellowship with God in one body and through one Spirit, Paul now continues to elaborate on this mystery.

Did God just come up with this plan when, as the denominational churches say, the Jews rejected Jesus as king and He instituted the church instead?

How important is the one body, comprising Jew and Gentile, in the scheme of things as pertains the saving of mankind?

"He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men"
Ephesians 4:8

BODY:

1. "THE MYSTERY REVEALED"

- a. Paul mentions that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ and by that he means that Jesus took him captive and as such endowed him with the necessary ability and permission to be His instrument to the Gentiles. Colossians 1:25
- b. The dispensation of the grace of God he refers to points to this same area, period and privilege of operation afforded him by God.
- c. "The mystery" Paul mentions was something kept hidden in the mind of God since the world began, and therefore certain not a last-minute afterthought God came up with because the Jews allegedly rejected Jesus as their king. Romans 16:25
- d. "The mystery" is defined as the Gentiles being fellow heirs with the Jews. Colossians 1:27
- e. God made this only known to His apostles and prophets by the Spirit so that in their teaching they could lay a sure foundation for the church universal showing that the acceptance of the Gentiles was in the original plan of God, Ephesians 2:20, Romans 15:16

2. "PAUL'S DIVINE CHARGE"

- a. The gift of the grace of God refers to the ability Paul had to receive and proclaim the news that the Gentiles would be fellow-heirs with the Jews
- b. Paul considered himself as the least that this grace should have been given to because of his poor record as far as persecuting the church of God was concerned. I Corinthians 15:9

- c. His charge comprised of painting a vivid picture to all men about this fellowship mystery, which was only known to God. I Corinthians 2:7
- d. An organization, which is the pillar and ground of the truth, Paul says, would be the instrument in God's design to demonstrate and propagate to the world the multifaceted wisdom of God. I Timothy 3:15
- e. That this was no spur of the moment afterthought can be clearly seen in the fact that God purposed this in Himself Ephesians 1:9 and in his Son Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 1:24
- f. For this reason, there should be no need to despair at the afflictions the apostle or any other preacher of the wisdom of God has to endure, it is all in the hands of the great and caring God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 3:3

3. "COMPREHENDING THE LOVE OF CHRIST"

- a. Paul's prayer for the saints at Ephesus was for the enlightenment of their spiritual eyes
- b. All Christians are called after their God and are his children. Hebrews 2:13
- c. Though the outer man is decreasing in ability daily, the inner man needs to be renewed with the same frequency. II Corinthians 4:16
- d. We have a pledge from Jesus that if we walk in faith He and His Father will live in our hearts. John 14:23
- e. Only then will we see the dimensional immensity of the love of Christ. 1:18
 - i. The breadth = Worldwide 3:9 "platos"
 - ii. Length = All ages 3:21 "mekos"
 - iii. The depth = Unfathomable 3:8 "bathos"
 - iv. Height = Extreme exaltation 2:6 "hupsos"
- f. The fullness of God is the extreme degree to which we had become partakers of the grace of God. John 1:16

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints"

4. "GLORY TO GOD"

- a. Beyond our request and prior to our asking, God is able to deliver and empower. Romans 16:25
- b. For these reasons there must always be glory to God through Jesus Christ in the church throughout all ages. Romans 11:36

CONCLUSION:

- ❖ The power and purpose of God allowed Him to create a plan from the beginning for the redemption of all mankind in one body.
- ❖ God kept it secret and decided that it would be revealed through His holy apostles and prophets through the Holy Spirit
- ❖ The nature of this plan would lay bare to all the dimensions of the love of Christ so that we in awe would always praise and glorify God through Jesus Christ our Lord.