

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH REVEALED
EPHESIANS 3:1-8

TODAY WE ENTER INTO CHAPTER 3 OF EPHESIANS. THE EPISTLE WRITTEN IN ROME, BY PAUL THE APOSTLE IN AD 60. PAUL IS CHAINED TO A ROMAN SOLDIER WHILE WRITING THIS LETTER. THE THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH FULLY EXPLAINED WITH PASSION AND TEARS TO THE CHURCHES IN ASIA MINOR WITH THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS BEING THE PRIMARY RECIPIANT. THE BOOK OF ACTS IS THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS IS THE THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH. SO FAR PAUL HAS BRILLIANTLY LAID OUT THE REVELATION THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, NOT BY WORKS, BUT BY FAITH ALONE. PAUL EXPLAINS THAT WE ARE ONE CHURCH, WORSHIPPING ONE GOD, IN ONE SPIRIT. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE, SLAVE OR FREE, MAN OR WOMAN, GREEK OR BARBARIAN. ALL BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN FUSED TOGETHER IN CHRIST CREATING A UNIFIED CHURCH. JUST AS THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNITY BETWEEN THE FATHER, SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT; SO, THERE IS UNITY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF. NO LONGER ARE WE GENTILES THE OUTSIDERS, BUT WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR TO THE FATHER THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS. SO THAT, WE CAN GLORIFY HIM WITH OUR LIVES WITH THE GOOD WORKS THAT GOD HAS PREDESTINED FOR US TO DO. THE POWER, THE PROMISES, THE COVENANT, AND THE POSITION HAS COME TO ALL NATIONS WHO BELIEVE IN THE

PERFECT LIFE, SACRIFICE, ATONEMENT, AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. LET'S GET INTO THIS

Ephesians 3:1 NIV

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

PAUL IS ABOUT TO PRAY BUT PAUSES TO EXPLAIN ONCE AGAIN, THE MAJESTY AND MYSTERY OF THE GENTILES BEING GRAFTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

Ephesians 3:14 NIV

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father,

FOR THIS REASON—WHAT REASON? THAT WE ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST, JEW AND GENTILE BUT IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST THAT GETS YOU THERE, NOT GOOD DEEDS OR RITUALS- PAUL LITERALLY GAVE HIS LIFE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES

PAUL'S NAME USED TO BE SAUL OF TARSUS, A PHARISEE OF PHARISEES

Philippians 3:3-6 NIV

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the

people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

THEN SAUL OF TARSUS MET JESUS CHRIST ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS TO PERSECUTE MORE CHRISTIANS

Acts 9:3-6 NIV

³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

SAUL CHANGED HIS NAME TO PAUL, A GREEK NAME MEANING HUMBLE AND LOWLY. ONE REASON COULD BE BECAUSE; WHO WOULD WANT THE REPUTATION OF A MURDERER ATTACHED TO THEIR NAME. BUT ALSO,

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

THE NAME CHRIS DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME DIRTY REPUTATION BEHIND IT ANYMORE. NEITHER DOES YOUR PAST

Ephesians 3:1 NIV

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

NOTICE HOW PAUL DOES NOT SAY “THE PRISONER OF ROME” HE PROCLAIMS HIS DEBT TO CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE WITH ALSO PROCLAIMING GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY OVE HIS LIFE

FOR THE SAKE OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILE NATIONS---JEWS HATED THIS, THEY THOUGHT THERE IS NO WAY GOD WOULD ALLOW SOMEONE TO GO FROM HEATHEN TO SAINT....EVEN SOME CHRISTIAN JEWS THOUGHT THE PROCESS SHOULD BE HEATHEN, JEW, SAINT

NOW WE BEGIN THE DIGRESSION OR PARENTHESIS BEFORE THE PRAYER

Ephesians 3:2-3 NIV

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

SURELY YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT MY CONVERSION AND THE GRACE THAT GOD HIMSELF GAVE ME TO BECOME YOUR MINISTER..GOD HIMSELF CONNECTED THE DOTS FOR ME

Galatians 1:11-12 NIV

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any

man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

GOD REVEALS MYSTERIES TO US TO SHARE WITH OTHERS

Ephesians 3:4-5 NIV

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS BORN ON PENTECOST, NO ONE KNEW THE MYSTERY OF THE FUSION BETWEEN GENTILE AND JEW. THEY ONLY GOT A GLIMPSE. NOT EVEN THE GREATEST OF GOD'S PROPHETS IN THE OT GOT THE FULL CONNECTION THAT PAUL LAYS OUT IN THE NT

IT IS PAUL'S DESIRE THAT EVERYONE WHO READS THIS LETTER UNDERSTAND IT TO IT'S FULL REVELATION

Ephesians 3:6 NIV

⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

PREFIX—SUN IS USED IN THE GREEK WORDS HEIRS, MEMBERS, SHARERS—SUN/SO MIXED TOGETHER THAT YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONE FROM ANOTHER

WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY PROMISED TO ISRAEL ALONE IS NOW OURS

Ephesians 3:7-8 NIV

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,

IT IS GOD HIMSELF WHO CHOOSES PEOPLE TO WORK IN AND THROUGH. HE CAN USE THE MOST "SHOT OUT" SINNER, POUR OUT HIS GRACE, THEN WITH REVELATION, POWER AND A HEART OF GRATITUDE THAT SINNER ACCOMPLISHES WHAT GOD SET THEM OUT TO DO. CAN I GET AN AMEN?!

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 NIV

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE HAS THE POWER TO COMPLETELY FLIP SOMEONE INSIDE OUT.....YOUR PAST NO LONGER CONDEMNS YOU BUT BECOMES A WEAPON AND MOTIVATOR FOR THE LORD

Colossians 1:24-29 NIV

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

THIS IS OUR MISSION!! LIVE YOUR LIFE ON PURPOSE, GLORIFY GOD BY SHARING YOUR LIFE WITH OTHERS SELFLESSLY. SHARE YOUR FAITH REGULARLY. WHEN YOUR PAST CREEPS UP TO CONDEMN YOU, REMEMBER THAT THE CHAINS HAVE BEEN BROKEN AND YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS!!

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