

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

***Ephesians 1:8b-10***

**Safe in God's Revealed Plan**

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**How God Revealed His Wisdom**

**Ephesians 1:8b-9a (NASB)**  
In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the **mystery** of His will

- "Mystery" means that which would not be known had God not revealed it
- This mystery is publicly taught by Christ and His apostles
- The pagan mysteries had secret, cultic rituals that enriched their shamans
- God's revealed mystery is for our benefit

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**God's Kind Intention**

**Ephesians 1:9b (NASB)**  
according to His **kind intention** which He **purposed** in Him

- "eudokia" can be called "good pleasure"
- "Purposed" means "set forward" and is used in Romans 3:25 regarding atonement
- The beneficent purpose of God in Christ comes from all eternity and is now revealed (Colossians 1:26, 27)

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### God's Management of His Universe

#### **Ephesians 1:10a (NASB)**

with a view to an **administration** suitable to the fullness of the times

- Administration is "*oikonomia*" which means the management of a household
- "Fullness of the times" refers to the 'epochs of history' (Luke 21:24)
- God is in charge of His own universe!

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### All Things Put Under Christ

#### **Ephesians 1:10b (LEB)**

to bring together **all things** in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in him.

- "bring together" can be "sum up" which includes the idea of Christ's headship
- This is an "already/not yet" declaration of God's purpose in Christ
- We need not fear the cosmic powers of "the heavens" if we are in Christ

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### Implications and Applications

- God's mystery is revealed publicly in Christ
- Reject cryptic, pagan mysteries with their rituals to gain occult knowledge
- God is bringing history forward according to His eternal plan in Christ
- We must turn to Christ to avoid the certain judgment which is yet future

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### God's Mystery Is Publicly Revealed

#### **1Timothy 3:16 (NASB)**

By common confession, great is **the mystery of godliness**: He who was **revealed** in the flesh, Was **vindicated** in the Spirit, **Seen** by angels, **Proclaimed** among the nations, **Believed** on in the world, **Taken up** in glory.

- This was confessed by Christians
- Nothing here is purposely hidden
- The Scriptures do not need decryption

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### Reject Pagan Mysteries

#### **2Thessalonians 2:6-7 (NASB)**

And you know what **restrains** him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For **the mystery of lawlessness** is already at work; only he who now **restrains** will do so until he is taken out of the way.

- This unrevealed mystery is about ultimate, spiritual evil yet to be unleashed
- Occultism seeks secrets from the realm of the spirits that God is protecting us from

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#### **Christ**

Revealed (Luke 17:30)  
 Parousia (2Th 2:8)  
 Power (Matt 24:30)  
 Signs (Matt 24:30)  
 Wonders (Jn 4:48)  
 "The Truth" (2Th 2:10)  
 Resurrected (1Cor 15:20)

#### **Antichrist**

Revealed (2Th 2:3, 6, 8)  
 Parousia (2Th 2:9)  
 Power (2Th 2:9)  
 Signs (2Th 2:9)  
 Wonders (2Th 2:9)  
 "The Lie" (2Th 2:11)  
 Resurrected (Rev 13:3)

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### God's Plan of History

**Luke 24:44 (NASB)**

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **must be fulfilled.**"

- **Whatever is predicted in Scripture must "de" be fulfilled (see Titus 1:2, 3)**
- **This includes future prophesy (Acts 3:21)**

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### There Will be Future Judgment

**Acts 17:30, 31 (NASB)**

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which **He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed,** having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

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### Sermon Titles for "Berakah"

- Safe in God's Providential Blessing
- Safe in God's Family
- Safe in God's Redeeming Grace
- Safe in God's Revealed Plan
- Safe as God's Own Possession
- Safely Sealed for Future Glory

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