



Christ Over All Series: Part 6: The Mystery in Christ, Ephesians 3:1-13
Mike Halpin ~ March 12, 2017

Intro: Called, commissioned, committed....

Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

I. Messenger of the Mystery—

Vs 2-13 are a digression, to communicate Paul's call and commission, and the mystery of Christ

V 2 stewardship= oikonomia, an administration (of a household or estate); specially, a (religious) "economy": — dispensation, stewardship.

V 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation...

V 5 (the mystery of Christ) has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

V 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister (servant/deacon)

V 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given,

- Galatians 1:15-16
- 1 Corinthians 9:17

In following Christ, there's no place a Christian finds themselves that God hasn't gone ahead and prepared the way.

We are called; we are commissioned; are we committed?

II. The Mystery of Christ—

God saving Gentiles as fellow members of the Church was a mystery, and it was part of the larger mystery of how God would place all things under the Headship of Christ. In CH 3, Paul tells us where this new information re. Gentiles and the Church came from.

Mystery = musterion, a hidden purpose or counsel; specifically in Scripture, something only God can make know.

- Ephesians 1:9

Through Paul and the other apostles and prophets God made known His plan that had been hidden in ages past (Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:26), and those mysteries hidden in God from eternity past are now laid out in Scripture and made known through the Church.

- 1Pet. 1:12

III. Mystery of Christ & God's Wisdom—

- Exodus 9:16
- Ephesians 3:9-10

God is using the Church to display His wisdom to the rulers and authorities in heaven.

“rulers and authorities”

“Manifold”/polupoikilos” variegated, like intricate embroidery or flowers of varying colors.

- Colossians 2:15 He (God) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

As the Church proclaims the gospel to the world, and as its members live out their calling to be subject to Christ as fellow members of His Body, we are a living demonstration of God's wisdom in bringing all things back into subjection through Christ. We are the first element of God's restoring all things to Himself, under Christ.

- When we share the hope of the gospel with others, near and far, Jew and Gentile
- When we fulfill our own call in the Church, serving where God has placed us
- When we forgive as we've been forgiven, and love as we've been loved,

We are in fact proclaiming both the grace of God in Christ and the wisdom of God, in Christ.