

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
EPHESIANS, PT. 6 –THE MYSTERY REVEALED (EPH 3:1-13)
FEBRUARY 11TH, 2018 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Introduction

- A. This portion of Ephesians expounds on the mystery and ministry of the gospel and the unthinkable role the church has in God’s plan for all the ages.
- B. The term mystery is used several times in this section along with phrases like “unsearchable riches” and “eternal purposes”. These terms may seem ethereal, however they are incredibly significant because of the details that are unfolded in this portion of the letter.
- C. Two critical pieces of new information are unpacked in these verses: In verses 8 – 9 Paul gives his life’s mission statement and in verses 10-11 Paul gives the church’s mission statement.
- D. One interesting note is how this section starts, “For this reason...” It is a reference to the previous section of the letter but also the subject of the “reason” isn’t explained until verse 14, where Paul restates, “For this reason”. The point is verses 1-13 are a bit of a bunny trail. They are likely the most anointed and important bunny trail in human history, but still a bunny trail.

II. The Mystery of the Gospel

Ephesians 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

- A. The prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles
- B. The dispensation(stewardship) of grace
- C. By revelation He made known the mystery (Acts 22:7-21, Gal 1:15-17)
- D. As I have briefly written (Eph 2:11-22)
- E. Knowledge in the mystery of Christ (Eph 3:6, Col 1:26-27, 1 Tim 3:16)
- F. In other ages was not made known but now has been revealed by the Spirit to the apostles and prophets (Rom 16:25, Col 1:26)
- G. The Gentiles are fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in the Gospel

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III. The Ministry of the Gospel

Ephesians 3:7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

- A. Became a minister according to the gift of grace
- B. Less than the least of all the saints
- C. Preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Col 1:15-20, Eph 1:10)
- D. Make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery (administration of the plan)
- E. Which has been hidden in God

III. The Manifestation of God's wisdom

Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

- A. The manifold wisdom of God
- B. Be made known by the church
- C. To the principalities and powers in the heavenly places
- D. According to the eternal purposes which he worked in Christ
- E. In whom we have bold access with confidence through faith
- F. Do not lose heart at (my) tribulations
- G. Which are for your glory