



Poema

“A Unique Relationship”

Ephesians 3:1-13

As one studies the life of the apostle Paul, it becomes evident how dedicated and committed he was to being obedient to his call to take the gospel to the Gentiles. In fact, he was under house arrest for doing that very thing as he wrote to the church at Ephesus.

There is no question that the Lord gave Paul a special love for those who were outside of the “commonwealth of Israel” – those who were without the “covenants” and “promises” of God – those “without hope” in the world.

In this section of his letter, Paul explains the unique relationship that Gentile believers now have with Jewish believers. More importantly, he explains the unique relationship believing Jews and Gentiles have together as one in the church. This New Testament truth concerning the “one new man,” the gathering of both Jew and Gentile in Christ, was a mystery in times past. However, it has now been revealed in all of its unique grace and glory.

- ***The unique relationship of Christ and the church was a MYSTERY in times past. (Ephesians 3:1-5)***

As Paul has stated in verses 11-22 of chapter 2, the Gentiles were without any understanding of experiential knowledge of a relationship with God. They were excluded.

This means that although the prophets of the Old Testament spoke of the coming Messiah – the Savior of the world – these prophets did not fully comprehend all that truth encompassed. For them, they were solely focused on the salvation and restoration of Israel.

This future unique relationship of both Jew and Gentile in the church was a mystery hidden from them. Even Jesus’ teaching in that He has “other sheep” (John 10) was not fully understood by the disciples until Peter took the gospel to the house of Cornelius in Acts 10.

- ***The unique relationship of Christ and the church was revealed through the PREACHING of the gospel. (Ephesians 1:6-9)***

This truth stated by Paul as, “...***the unsearchable riches of Christ, to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things***” relays to us that we are the people of God, raised from spiritual death – showered with God’s grace and forgiveness – given a new hope and a new home – indwelt by the Holy Spirit – gifted for the purposes of the gospel – and brought to a unique oneness with believing Jews into the body of Christ called the *church* – this is our new identity. This is who we are.

- ***The unique relationship of Christ and the church has a powerful PURPOSE that transcends time. (Ephesians 2:10-13)***

The church does not exist simply for the purpose of saving souls, though that is a marvelous and important work. The supreme purpose of the church, as Paul makes very clear, is to glorify God by manifesting His “...**manifold wisdom**...” When living our lives as followers of Christ in total devotion to Him in all things, we bring Him glory. Through His glory, He reveals the work of Christ for the redemption of humanity.

Nothing testifies louder to the unbelieving world than a radically changed life of total commitment. Others can see a devotion to Christ that is born out of a full understanding of God’s Word and plan for the ages.

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