

The Church: Proclaiming the Mystery of God's Wisdom (Ephesians 3:1-13)

This 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. (Eph. 3:6)

Here it will help us to imagine a cosmic drama. The theatre is history. The stage is the world. The actors are the Church. The writer is God, who also directs and produces the drama. And the audience? Cosmic beings - the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. The history of the Christian Church is the graduate school for angels.

R. Kent Hughes

Four Questions:

1. What is the mystery of Christ? (vs. 6)
2. How was the mystery made known? (vs. 1 - 5)
3. How is the mystery made plain? (vs. 7 - 9)
4. What does God intend to accomplish through making the mystery known? (vs. 10 - 13)

Questions for Reflection:

1. In what practical ways can every local church be engaged in making the mystery of Christ known? How are we doing this? How could we do this more effectively?
2. As a servant (deacon) of the gospel and as the *'less than the least'* Paul was given the privilege of *preaching* (evangelizing) and *making plain* (shedding light, causing to see) what has been hidden (vs. 8 - 9). In what way is every Christian called to do the same?
3. How is God's wisdom on display through the Church and who is watching? (vs. 10 - 11)



Personal Study Notes

Ephesians 3:1-13

Insights Gained :

Until the day when the new heavens and earth are created... the only visual point of contact between the heavenly realms and the earthly realms is the church. That is why the Church is so important... Satan does not want the Church to be what we are - for when we live rightly, then it becomes apparent to Satan that his days are numbered, and to the world that the power and purposes of God are in operation. (Simon Austen)

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles (1-13)

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles (1-7)

3:6

And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.—

The Mystery and Wisdom (8-13)

3:12

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.—

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)

