



Sunday, February 24, 2019

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — “*to obey is better than sacrifice*” (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The WEALTH of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

- A. The Christian and His RICHES (1:3-23)
- B. The Christian and His RECONCILIATION (2:1-22)
- C. The Christian and His REVELATION (3:1-21)

Paul continues in ch. 3 with the topic of *revelation*—God’s revealed truths. This chapter can be summed up as a prayer with an *interruption* and *intercession*. He speaks about what was *revealed* to him and what he prays will be *realized* by his readers.

1. What was REVEALED (1-13)

a. The PRISONER and His REALITY (1)

What he states in v. 1 sets the stage for the application of Ephesians 3:2-13. Paul’s *mission perspective* of making Christ preeminent in his life fueled by his transforming understanding of his *Master’s providence* his *ministry persuasion* then is driven without compromise or retreat. His course and determination in ministry are rooted in a fluent understanding of Who his God is. Paul’s perspective was to remain faithful until the end.

b. The PREACHER and His REVELATION (2-6)

i. Paul's STEWARDSHIP of the Mystery (2-4)

A "steward" was like an estate manager. They are entrusted with the care of the property but do not have ownership of it. A "steward" was entrusted with something of great value.

a) Divine COMMUNICATION (3)

God had set Paul apart "*that [he] might preach [Christ] among the [Gentiles]*" and spoken directly to him in "*Arabia*" (Galatians 1:15-17).

b) Dictated COMPREHENSION (4)

Application: **What we are to know**—"ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."

ii. Paul's PARTNERSHIP of the Mystery (5)

In "*other ages*" this mystery was hinted at but not fully developed or revealed. God promised Abraham that "*in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*" (Genesis 12:3).

God stated that the Messiah, "*My Servant*" would be "*a light to the Gentiles, that Thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth*" (Isaiah 49:6).

In Romans 9:24-26, Paul applies two passages in Hosea to the Gentiles as those who would be the recipients of God's salvation.

1 Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

iii. Our FELLOWSHIP as the Mystery (6)

Paul explains the "*mystery*" here in v. 6 which is that believing Gentiles enjoy equal position and privilege with believing Jews. Notice there is a loss of *former* identity as they become one in Christ. They take on a *new shared* identity as a "*fellowheir*," fellow-member "*of the same body*," and "*[fellow] partaker of His promise in Christ*." (cf. Philippians 2:3-4)

a) Fellow-heirs of the same RICHES of Christ

A "*fellowheir*" speaks of equally sharing in the same blessings. Believing Jews and Gentile share equally as heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:8-11, 14-17).

Romans 8:16-17 The **Spirit** [*Himself*] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of **God**: **17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of **God**, and joint-heirs with **Christ**; if so be that we suffer with *Him*, that we may be also glorified together.

b) Fellow-members of the same RELATIONSHIP

A fellow member “*of the same body*” speaks of being an equal member of the body of Christ—the Church. There is no class system of higher-ranking members. We all share in the status of our relationship with Christ (Romans 12:4-5).

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also **Christ**. **13** For by one **Spirit** are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one **Spirit**.

c) Fellow-partakers of the same REVELATION

A “[fellow] partaker” speaks of being an equal possessor of the Messianic “*promise*.” No one has been a special revelation for themselves. The revelation of the Messianic “*promise*” that has been given is for all and beneficial to those who “*partake*” in it through faith in Jesus Christ.

This “*promise*” is that of the one made to Abraham (Genesis 12:3), the promised “*Holy Spirit*” (Galatians 3:14), and “*eternal life*” (1 John 2:25).

Application: **What we are to be**—“*fellowheirs, [fellow members] of the same body, and [fellow] partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel.*”



Our WORTHY WALK is strengthened by the truth of the REVELATION of the mystery of the Church. We see Paul’s understanding of his STEWARDSHIP of this great truth and his PARTNERSHIP with other N.T. “*apostles and prophets*” in the teaching of the FELLOWSHIP of the mystery where Jews and Gentiles share equally in the RICHES of CHRIST, the RELATIONSHIP with CHRIST, and the REVELATION from CHRIST.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!