James #80

The mystery of the Church age.

 Open back up today in Ephesians chapter three and let us pick up where we left off.

Keep in mind I am going away this weekend for a family matter, the Sunday message should be up earlier than expected.

I found out recently that not only has Pastor John Farley gone home to be with the LORD… but so too did Steve Smith, another quality man of God.

/ PRB Ministry 2025 Bible Conference

 @VFW Post #8315

 1000 John E. Peterson Blvd (FM 78)

 Schertz, TX 78154

 Dates: 7th-9th, November 2025

 (Friday fellowship dinner)

 Sat & Sun classes 11:15 - 6:30pm \

Ephesians chapter 3 is a great chapter to highlight mystery doctrine.

/Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus **for the sake of you Gentiles**—

The Apostle Paul was the master theologian of the CA doctrines. He was responsible to help open up the fullness of the Gentiles for the new Church Age.\

Paul was the expert contractor who laid out the whole foundation and built most of the structure, we now know as the CA Dispensation.

 Which was a mystery to OT saints.

/Eph 3:2 **if indeed you have heard of the administration**(*oikonomia*) **of God’s grace** which was given to me for you;

Stewardship, administrative office, dispensation - which covers specific boundaries and commands. God’s grace plan for the Church Age.\

Those boundaries are regulated time periods and pre-ordained commands and seasons of events.

A stewardship in the ancient world was often referenced as a dispensation, which usually meant you became a care-taker of a specific piece of property that was not yours. You held responsible over the acreage, the estate and the duties of that land.

 REPEAT

/[Eph 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/3/s_1100003) that by revelation there was **made known to me the mystery**, as I wrote before briefly.

The Apostle Paul sent out letters to several congregations, informing them of mystery doctrine he had received (2Cor 12:1-6) by our LORD in the 3rd heaven.\

The office of apostleship was closed with the conversion of Paul. Every man who held the title of apostle had to be taught by Christ, face to face.

Just as every prophet of the foundation period of the CA was under the authority of an apostle.

Those offices were closed with the completion of the canon of scripture.

/[Eph 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/4/s_1100004) By referring to this, when you read you can **understand my insight** (*synesis*) **into the mystery of Christ**,

To deeply consider, to become wise upon a subject matter, to study and understand which increases intellect.\

SYN-AH-SIS, means a deeper knowledge that points us to divine wisdom.

That comes from a GOD, ordained gift and a deep effort to study the Word.

The Apostle Paul is basically responsible for nearly 15 books of the NT when you consider Dr. Luke’s connection and influence under the Apostle Paul, 15 out of 27 books in the NT.

The influence and study of the Apostle Paul’s teaching must be a key factor for all Christians and their growth in the plan of God.

 REPEAT

[/Eph 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/5/s_1100005) which **in other generations was not made known** to mankind, as it has **now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**

The revealing of the mystery began under the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ.\

The reminder in the NT teaching is that other ages, other generations…other dispensations, did not have full knowledge of this mystery.

[/Eph 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/6/s_1100006) *to be specific,* **that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body,** and **fellow partakers** of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Believing Jews and believing Gentiles are joined together into one body of Christ, into one Church, during this new age.\

The promise is eternal security for the Believer.

We must understand the time we live in, and to fully grasp the concept of fellow heirs and partakers of the promise we have to look at the original language.

There is no longer a separation before God as such was the case for a period of time under the Dispensation of Israel. We are now all of the same family of GOD.

/Eph 3:6 – *fellow heirs (sygklēronomos) and fellow members if the body (syssōmos)*

Gentiles are brought into the family they inherit blessings because they are now (Church Age) married to Christ. Belonging to a body, to be an intricate part of the larger whole.\

SUE-CLAY-ANOM-US, to become a joint owner, to inherit, or to be brought alongside - such as what happens when a man marries a woman.

SUE-SAH-MUS, points to the part of a body, something connected to a larger whole.

Example, The arm is connected to the whole body.

All of these Greek words have a connection in the root words, which point to walking alongside or to be joined and brought into something.

 REPEAT

/Eph 3:6 – *fellow partakers (symmetochos)*

To become a joint partner in a venture or a reward. To share!

This is not a replacement but a joining together of two bodies to make one, or two partners to share in a blessing.\

SUE-MET-AH-HUSK, speaks to a partnership, similar to a marriage agreement.

/This does not mean the Church replaces or receives that which was already promised onto the original family members. They join in at a certain point, they partake and can enjoy the family blessings. The new marriage means access along with newer blessings as well. Certain promises to the nation of Israel (OT) are focused on True Israel. We receive the eternal blessing and protection as a bride of Christ, along with our own set of NEW blessings.\

You do not marry into a wealthy family and take over the younger brother’s or the sister’s blessings and inheritance already promised to them.

How would that be fair and just?

That which actually make GOD a liar.

This points to what the Apostle Paul taught in Rome;

/Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, **and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker** with them of the rich root of the olive tree, 18 **do not be arrogant toward the branches**; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you.\

The mystery of how the Gentiles would be brought into the family of God was very unclear for the OT saints of the nation of Israel.

Those who were well educated in the WORD understood faith alone in Christ alone was the entrance into a relationship with GOD and faith gave them eternal security. REPEAT

Yet how this would all unfold for Gentiles remained a mystery, even though it was proclaimed at the formation of the Nation of Israel.

/Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And **in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”**

True Israel (Bels of the 12 tribes) were given a protection promise. Within that was the proclamation that any person of true faith in Christ will be blessed.\

This is often a source of wrong teaching and even misunderstood to the point that some Christians and zealous teachers believe, we all take a knee for everyone with a Jewish bloodline.

All true Believers are Gods’ chosen people.

 REPEAT

True Israel - the land itself and the true Believers of the 12 bloodline tribes of Israel do have promises, protection and a sovereign purpose in the plan of God.

Satan has seeds, counterfeits, dark agents and corruption placed in every culture around the world – that means America, Christians… Jews, Israel, Russia or China. Or any where on this earth, it is a satanic battleground.

We need to be very cautious who we attack and who we elevate!

[Eph 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/7/s_1100007) of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

Everything is Christ dependent; the Apostle Paul is saying his ministry has to be Christ centered.

The grace plan of God is built upon the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Which means you have to fully understand the doctrine of the Hypostatic union.

[Eph 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/8/s_1100008) To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

[/Eph 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/9/s_1100009) and **to enlighten all people as to what the plan of the mystery** is which **for ages has been hidden** in God, who created all things;

Everything is resolved and answered in Christ. The person and work of Jesus Christ (humanity) was revealed as a portion of the mystery. (Doctrine of Hypostatic Union).\

The Apostle Paul proclaims the very reason every pastor-teacher has to be held accountable for what they teach.

The job of church leadership is to guide or enlighten, to feed the flock. Yet that teacher or leader has to be studying in depth into the accuracy of the WORD.

Even when the teaching is accurate many still will kick against the truth. Or often times, they just become apathetic like the majority in the Nation of Israel did thousands of years ago.

 REPEAT

They were told Christ would arrive and HE would be GOD in the flesh and HE would walk among them.

/Isa 9:6 For **a Child will be born to us**, a **Son** will be given to us; And the government will rest on HIS shoulders; And **His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father,**

**Prince of Peace**.

Isa 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel**.\

They were told GOD will walk among you in several prophecies. Yet the full understanding of the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union was very difficult for them to digest.

That is a portion of the mystery that was taught but not fully understood – TLJC had to arrive and complete the work on the cross.

Jesus needed to be resurrected and walk among them for this portion of the mystery to begin to make sense.

Which many still rejected HIM after the resurrection.

TLJC never stopped being GOD – HE will remain forever 100% deity and also a 100% humanity.

[/Eph 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/10/s_1100010) so that **the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known through the church** to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places.*

Known through the CA Bels who grow into maturity. We represent Christ on earth in Spiritual Maturity which means God’s grace plan is spoken about and lived through our life and our words.\

Notice what Apostle Paul writes here…the *multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known -* through the church.

How many Christians are uniformed about core doctrines…eternal security, the Bride of Christ…the filling power of the HS…and certainly mystery doctrine of the Church age?!

[Eph 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/11/s_1100011) *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

[Eph 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/12/s_1100012) in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

There is no barrier between God and mankind – we are all Believer priests in the CA. We are indwelt and have a filling power of the HS.

The barrier is arrogance.

The barrier is false teaching and stubbornness as well as apathy.

The barrier is emotional lust patterns and ears that seek to be tickled.

 REPEAT

/1Cor 2:7 but **we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom*** which God predestined **before the ages** to our glory;

Mystery doctrine is part of the plan, it is dead center within the Divine Decree.\

Part of the mystery doctrine, including the blindness or hardness of Israel during the Church Age, is also a part of the fifth cycle of discipline —

/Rom 11:25 For **I do not want you, brothers *and sisters,* to be uninformed of this mystery**— so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that **a partial hardening has happened to Israel** until **the fullness of the Gentiles** has come in;\

The CA interrupted the Dispensation of Israel.

The pastor or minister is responsible for communicating Church Age doctrine. This is called the stewardship of the mysteries — Bels are responsible to get under accurate teaching and get into good study habits.

/1Cor 4:1 This is the way *any* person is to **regard us: as servants of Christ** and **stewards of the mysteries of God**.

It is not the job of the pastor-teacher to have a concert hall and music ministries, nor is it his job to tell fun stories and keep people entertained. HE is to study and teach with agonizing accuracy, led by the HS and reliant upon the WORD!\