

EPHESIANS 1:9-14

LESSON 05

Mystery of His Will

1. Ephesians 1:9-10 – Dispensation of the Fulness of Times

- a. Before meat you must realize it is about God's glory and will not yours – 1Co 3:1-3
- b. God's will is his purpose, not a perfect personal plan for you – Eph 1:9, 1Th 4:3, 5:18
- c. *"in the dispensation"* – a word people think is not Biblical – 1Co 9:17, Ep 3:2, Co 1:25
 - i. A dispensation = a revelation of God's will and ways and man's responsibility
 - ii. When is it? - Is it now? ("church age"), but not all *things* are gathered in one
 1. David's kingdom? (Scofield), but Jew and Gentile are separate there
 2. See Phil 2:10 where there are three things and two are in Christ.
 - iii. What is it? = "both" – both = 2 - 1) in heaven, 2) on earth... in that order.
 1. All things in Christ – what are the things? See Col 1:16,20; 3:15
 2. There are many gatherings in the Bible – discern the times.
- d. *What about in Christ before Paul?* (Rom 16:7) – Eph 1:10 is the answer.
 - i. In Christ according to what? Purpose/positions in heaven or earth?
 - ii. In him in the earth (prophecy) – Isa 45:25; John 15:4-5; 1 John 3:25
 - iii. In him in heaven (mystery) – Eph 2:6-7, 2:15-16, 3:9; 2 Cor 5:16-17

2. Ephesians 1:11-12 – An Inheritance According to His Purpose

- a. Inheritance concerns a place/possession/position/estate received by heredity
- b. Each mention of it results in the praise of HIS glory – 1:6, 12, 14, why? It is grace.
- c. What do we receive? Col 1:27, Eph 3:6-8, 1:18 – riches and glory
- d. Predestination is not preselection of persons– it concerns a destiny and a purpose
 - i. Acc. to His purpose – Rom 8:28, 9:17, Eph 1:9, 1:11, 3:11, 2 Tim 1:9
- e. Eph 1 lists 9 spiritual blessings we have from God: Father (3), Son (3), Spirit (3)
- f. 1:3-6 – Father 1) chose us in him, 2) adopted us as sons, 3) accepted us in Christ
- g. 1:7-12 – Son 1) redeemed us, 2) abounded toward us, 3) gave an inheritance
- h. 1:13-14 – Spirit 1) reveals to us , 2) sealed us, 3) earnest of our inheritance

3. Ephesians 1:13-14 – Sealed With The Spirit

- a. The Spirit's work in Romans 8:9-23 re: our inheritance as joint-heirs with Christ
- b. How do we get the Spirit? How do we get in Christ? Answer: Eph 1:13
- c. The order of salvation: 1) you hear, 2) you believe/trust, 3) you are sealed
- d. There is no room here for water baptism, good works, saying prayers, ceremonies
- e. Sealed by God dwelling in us – 1 Cor 3:16, in Christ forever, not only until you sin.
- f. *"redemption"* here refers to our being delivered from corruption – Ep 4:30, Ro 8:23
- g. *"Spirit of promise"* – that we receive by faith, not by works – Gal 3:18
- h. *"purchased possession"* = the church is to the praise of His glory because...
 - i. ...we are bought – we are not a gift to God - Acts 20:28, 1 Cor 6:20