

EPHESIANS 1:22-23

LESSON 08

The Body of Christ

1. Ephesians 1:22-23 – The Body of Christ is the Mystery

- a. 2 Tim 1:9 = saved us (Eph 1:4-14), called us (Eph 1:14-23), acc. to his grace (Eph 2)
- b. Paul is talking about the mystery here in chapter 1 – (see Eph 3:4,6,9)
- c. The knowledge of Christ acc. to mystery = Eph 1:17-18: his calling, riches, power
- d. Eph 1:22 – In Christ as the Head is the gift to the church – Col 2:10
- e. The head is in glory, body on earth; we are joined with him as the fullness of him
- f. While his body is here the coming of Christ is delayed – Act 3:21, 2Pe 3:15, Heb 9:28

2. The Church, Which Is His Body – the Fellowship of the Mystery

- a. Your identity/calling as the body of Christ will be the theme throughout Ephesians
- b. People get stuck on names and the word “church”: but a rose is a rose...
- c. “*body of Christ*” – 1 Cor 10:16-17, 12:12-13,20,27, Eph 4:12, Eph 5:30-32
- d. “*one body*” “*one new man*” “*perfect man*” – Ro 12:5, Col 3:15, Eph 4:4, 13, 2:15-16
- e. “*new creature*” – opposed to the old - 2 Cor 5:17, Gal 6:15, Rom 8:19-21
- f. “*fellowship*” – 1 Cor 1:9, Eph 3:9, Phil 3:9-10 (compare to 1 John 1:6, 2:3; John 15:8)

3. Israel and the Church are Different

- a. This is not a nation (a body), made by covenant (by cross), under law (under grace)
- b. How you get in? Who are you, then? Your place? Gifts? Mission? Message? Walk?
- c. His body has different calling(admin), riches(gifts), power(operation) than Israel
- d. Christ is not the King given to you (Isa 9:6, Jer 23:5, Matt 21:4-5), but the Head
- e. The church in wilderness (Acts 7:38) and Jerusalem (Acts 8:1) had a diff. ministry
- f. Why does it matter? Without dividing them, the mystery of Christ becomes hidden behind allegory, symbols, shadows, etc. The gospel is lost. – 2 Cor 4:3-4

4. Ephesians 1:23 – All in All

- a. 1 Cor 12:6-8 – There are differences, but it is the same Spirit, same Lord, same God
- b. The all things have definition – 1 Cor 15:28, Eph 1:10, Col 1:16
- c. He fills all things, by being in all things – Col 1:18, 3:10-11
- d. Christ in us and we in Christ - Col 1:24-27 – this is called the Body of Christ
... this is the mystery of Christ.

“This is the mystery: that Christ risen from the dead, seated at the right hand of God, is the Head and those who believe on Him constitute the Church, His body. This body is destined, according to the eternal purpose of God, to share the glory of the Head. This purpose is still in the future. The administration (or dispensation) of the fulness of times has not yet come. When it comes all things, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, will be headed up in Christ.” – A.C. Gaebelien

“Only He knows the exact time when the crowning event in the history of the Church, the gathering of the saints of god to meet Him in the air will take place. Perhaps in His infinite mercy He may still tarry to add more members to His Body, His own fullness, which filleth all in all” – (1942) Gaebelien