

The Wisdom of God Revealed according to His Decrees

By Nick Bibile

Ephesians 3

⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Last week we saw the unsearchable riches of God that is manifested to children of God. Today we are going to continue.

Verse 9. To make all see, all means not all the people can see but all here is those elected Gentiles and Jews the mystery, is something hidden before now revealed to the church to the fellowship.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

What is this mystery that is being hidden to the church now being revealed? It is the gospel. Unsearchable riches of Christ is found in the gospel. Now we can see or we are enlightened and brought to light by the gospel of grace. We were in darkness but by the grace of God by his choice we were brought to the light, to an understanding.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, is the same who hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. "
(2 Corinthians 4:6)

This mystery of God the gospel of God came through Christ Jesus.

Joh 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

The gospel of grace was hidden from the beginning of ages now revealed through Christ Jesus. It is the same Christ Jesus who created all things and same Christ Jesus who revealed the will of God to us. So the hidden mystery is really the grace of God in the gospel, we will see this more clearly later.

¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

Who are the principalities and powers in heavenly places here? Not the earthly rulers and powers nor the evil angels who fell from heaven the demonic powers but the good angels.

What Paul is saying here through the church this wisdom of God will be known to the angels. Preaching of the gospel was not conveyed to the devils but to the angels. But how come the angels come to know this manifold wisdom of God through the church?

Let me put it this way like in a drama. God is the author. He wrote the script. We are the actors and angels are the audience. The drama unfolds across the centuries from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus, the apostles. Jesus is the center of the drama. You and I are the players in this drama, Satan is the enemy to stop the work and the audience is the angels saying wow, unbelievable, amazing!

John Calvin put it this way, let me quote.

"The church, composed both of Jews and Gentiles, is a mirror, in which angels behold the astonishing wisdom of God displayed in a manner unknown to them before. They see a work which is new to them, and the reason of which was hid in God. In this manner, and not by learning anything from the lips of men, do they make progress."

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Let me explain further. The angels are in heaven where God dwells. They are holy as they are in the presence of God. Yet they do not walk in faith. The preaching of the gospel is given to the church not to the angels. Let me put this in a picture.

We who were totally wicked, sinful, living in darkness enjoying the pleasure of this world, we were against God's will at enmity with God. Angels looking down at us will never expect vile sinners like us would be saved. But God who is the author did not use the holy perfect angels to preach the gospel. But used poor weak men as his instruments which angels would have been astonished. How can they succeed when there is a powerful enemy, Satan and his demons all over so powerful than all these weak human beings? Those who preached the gospel are ridiculed, mocked and persecuted but the outcome is amazing, it's not the people who call them selves good and religious being saved but totally sinful and wicked are being saved. Angels watch this and say wow the amazing wisdom of God!

Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. (Mat 21:31)

Mr 4:11 And he said unto them, unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables.

We can learn a lesson on evangelism in the ministry of Jesus. He put priority in preaching the gospel to the poor.

Mt 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Lu 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

The power of the gospel is such that God can use weak vessels like us to bring sinners to Christ, make sinners to saints.

Secular history concentrates on the changing of the map of the world as one nation defeats another, the rise and the fall of empires. The Bible speaks of the church, there are no territorial frontiers, this church is in the fore front battling against the powers of darkness bringing rebels who will repent and making them to saints, changing lives by the precious blood of Jesus.

The angels who are in the very presence of God did not know this mystery of God. Now it is being revealed when they see sinners coming to Christ by the proclamation of the gospel by people like us. As I said before the angels are like the audience and when a wicked sinful sinner is converted to Christ the angels in heaven rejoice.

Lu 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The author of salvation the person who wrote the script is none other than God himself. When you say according to the eternal purpose it means according to the decree of God. It means that things come to pass according to God's divine purpose rather than by chance. To deny the decrees of God is practically to dethrone him. It put God as a helpless spectator and the church trying to help God. This is not true.

When you look many of the churches today do not understand this amazing grace of God. Many think that man has the power of man where man has the power to say yes or no to the gospel, God is begging and weeping them to come to him. This is not the God of the Bible. God planned, he purposed and predetermined. If God had not purposed the blessings of salvation then we owe thanks to others and not to God. But the Bible is clear in this verse.

"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." See Ephesians 1:9

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.

The entire salvation is displayed by the great wisdom of God, according to his purpose. He purposed that some would be saved and some not and we cannot ask God why not all saved? If all are saved all will go to heaven and we have dealt with this subject before.

God was not taken out of balance when Adam sinned, he did not say my plan was foiled by the enemy now I have to go to plan B, God is not changing his plans all the time, if he does then he is like man does not know what will happen in the future. Then how can we trust in God if he himself is not sure of the future. But the scripture is declares other wise.

Mal 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not.

Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:.

Ac 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

God's secret will is the rule of his actions. His revealed will is the rule of our actions. The secret will of God is his program according to all things comes to pass. His revealed will gives us our program according to which we are to work.

De 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Now in closing, the covenant of grace was made in heaven before the foundation of the world.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

All the glory goes to the one who wrote the script in the drama, the author of the book of salvation, and the one who performed salvation is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, his coming into this world, sufferings and death, the mediator, the one who forgave our sins and made us clean, made us righteous before God and we are called the children of God. Oh! How precious is his grace.

“His providence unfolds the book, and makes his counsels shine. Each opening leaf and every stroke fulfills some deep design.”

“In thy fair Book of life and grace, oh, may I find my name. Recorded in some humble place. Beneath my Lord the Lamb.” (Isaac Watts)

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

All the glory and honor goes to God and our Lord Jesus Christ. The author of salvation and the performer of salvation.

Re 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him

that liveth for ever and ever.

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