

The Crystallization

Declaring and Experiencing God's Eternal Purpose

Chapter 3 of Ephesians declares the aim of God's eternal purpose and details the experience that is needed to fulfill God's eternal purpose. No other chapter in the Bible is more focused on the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose according to the economy of the mystery of God than this chapter. Our participation in the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose begins with the mystery being made known to us by revelation. God's hidden purpose is a mystery, and the unveiling of this mystery is by revelation. The New Testament is a revelation, an unveiling, of God's economy. God's economy is to dispense Himself into redeemed and regenerated humanity in order to produce the church as His Body, His fullness. This mystery of Christ, the church, is revealed to the believers through the ministry of the apostles and prophets.

According to Ephesians 3, ministry involves a stewardship of the grace of God. As a steward appointed by God to supply His household and as an apostle sent by God, Paul announced the unsearchably rich Christ as the gospel. He did not announce doctrines and teachings but the riches of Christ. The grace that Paul experienced became his elemental constitution. Then he ministered and imparted this grace to the believers. Paul was a faithful steward in the house of God, receiving the riches and then distributing them to produce the church.


The eternal purpose that God made in Christ to produce the church results in a universal display of God's multifarious wisdom for His corporate expression and representation in redeemed humanity. The church is constituted intrinsically with Christ as its centrality and universality through the dispensing of the riches of Christ as grace into the believers.

In order to see the intrinsic essence of the church and participate in the riches of Christ, we need to see the economy of the mystery. The economy of the mystery is the divine arrangement of all things, all matters, and all situations in our lives so that God, in Christ as the life-giving Spirit, may dispense Himself into our tripartite being, making us the same as He is in life and nature and making Himself one with us and us one with Him to fulfill His will to have the organic Body of Christ as His corporate expression. The more we are enlightened to see the economy of the mystery, the more we will join the apostle Paul to pray for the vital spiritual experiences that

will issue in the fulfillment of the economy of the mystery, which is a display of God's glory.

God's glorification through the church testifies of the multifarious wisdom of God to the evil and dark principalities and powers in the air. Such a testimony will herald the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose to the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies because it will display the eternally enlarged Triune God. There is a need for such a display to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies in order to shame and repudiate their current and ongoing efforts to frustrate and oppose the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose. Their efforts will ultimately be overcome through the divine response—the divine dispensing of the divine life of the Triune God as grace to produce glory, the expression of the enlargement of the Triune God through the church.

For the sake of this dispensing, Paul prayed that we would be strengthened into the inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts and thereby occupy, possess, permeate, and saturate our whole inner being with Himself. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, He controls our entire inward being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself. The Triune God is operating so that Christ can make His home in our hearts, and when Christ makes His home in our hearts, the church becomes the fullness of the Triune God, that is, the full expression of the Triune God.

We need to be strengthened into our inner man, our spirit, so that the indwelling Christ can spread Himself throughout our being and make His home in our inward parts. As Christ spreads within us, He saturates every part of our inner being with all that He is. This roots and grounds us in love, enabling us to apprehend the vast dimensions of Christ and to know His knowledge-surpassing love. Ultimately, the church will be filled unto all the fullness of God. The dispensing of the Triune God into our entire being is so that we may become His expression, His glory. In order for the glory of God to be wrought into us, we need to be strengthened into our inner man according to the riches of God's glory. This glory comes to us with God, and after being worked into us, it returns to God with us. To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. 

by the Editors