

**Outline of  
the Messages for the Full-time Training  
in the Spring Term of 2025**

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**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—  
EPHESIANS**

Message Seven

**Through the Church  
the Multifarious Wisdom of God Made Known  
to the Rulers and Authorities in the Heavens**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:8-11

- I. The deepest verses in the entire Bible are Ephesians 3:8-11.**
- II. Chapter 1 of Ephesians speaks of the power of God (vv. 19-20), chapter 2, of the grace of God (vv. 5-8), and chapter 3, of the wisdom of God (v. 10).**
- III. In order to participate in the recovery of the church, we need to see God's eternal purpose concerning the church—1:9, 11; 3:9-11; Rom. 8:28:**
  - A. A purpose is a determined intent to do something or to gain something:
    - 1. The determined will of God became the purpose of God—Eph. 1:5.
    - 2. God's purpose is His determined intent to gain the church—vv. 9, 11.
  - B. The eternal purpose (lit., "the purpose of the ages") was made by God in eternity past for eternity future—3:11:
    - 1. The purpose of the ages is the purpose of eternity, the eternal purpose.
    - 2. In eternity past, before the foundation of the world, before the heavens, the earth, and all things were created, God made a purpose for something in the future, in eternity to come; therefore, it is called the purpose of eternity, the eternal purpose—1:4-5, 9, 11; 3:11.
  - C. The word *purpose* in Ephesians 3:11 is equivalent to the word *plan*; we may speak of the eternal plan which God planned in Christ:
    - 1. God has a plan, which He planned in eternity; God's eternal purpose is God's eternal plan.
    - 2. *His purpose* in Romans 8:28 refers to the purposeful determination in God's plan.
    - 3. God's plan is to have a corporate expression of Himself in Christ the Son by the Spirit through the Body composed and built up with many regenerated and transformed people by the mingling of Himself with humanity—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16.
  - D. Ephesians 3:10-11 reveals that the existence of the church is according to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord:
    - 1. The church was planned by God in eternity, before time began—1:4-5, 9, 11, 22-23.
    - 2. In eternity past and for eternity to come, God planned and purposed to have the church in Christ and for Christ—3:10-11:
      - a. The church is not a temporary matter but an eternal matter in the eternal purpose of God; the church is the center and subject of God's eternal plan.
      - b. God planned in eternity past to have the church, and He expects to have the church in eternity to come.

- c. The church is in this age and throughout this age, yet it is from eternity past and for eternity future—Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Rev. 21:2, 9-11.
- E. God planned to have the church composed of regenerated and transformed human beings who are coordinated and built together as a corporate Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 3:14-21.
- F. The church is dear, lovable, and precious to God because the church is His good pleasure, the desire of His heart—1:5, 9, 22-23.

**IV. We need “to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things”—3:9:**

- A. The New Testament tells us that the church was a mystery in God; throughout all the generations before the New Testament time, the church was a mystery—Eph. 3:3-6, 9; 5:32.
- B. In the Bible a mystery refers not only to things that are hidden and unknown to us but also to things that are hidden in God’s heart; this is the principle concerning the mysteries mentioned in the Bible—Mark 4:11; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3; Eph. 1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 5:32; 6:19.
- C. God’s mystery is His hidden purpose, which is to dispense Himself into His chosen people; hence, there is the economy of the mystery of God—3:9.

**V. Through the church the multifarious wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities—v. 10:**

- A. The rulers and authorities are the angelic rulers and authorities, both good and evil.
- B. Ephesians 3:10 refers especially to the evil ones—Satan and his angels:
  - 1. Satan has his kingdom, his angels, and his sphere of rule—Matt. 12:26; 25:41; Eph. 6:12:
    - a. Satan’s sphere of rule is in the air and on the earth—2:2; 1 John 5:19.
    - b. The book of Daniel indicates that all nations on earth are under the rule of Satan in the air—10:13.
  - 2. Through the church God will make His wisdom known not mainly to human beings but to those rebellious angels who are the followers of God’s enemy—Rev. 12:7.
- C. Even the rebellion of Satan is within the realm of God’s wisdom—Isa. 14:12-14:
  - 1. If it were not for Satan’s rebellion, God’s wisdom could not be made known in a full way.
  - 2. Satan has created many opportunities for God’s wisdom to be manifested in a multifarious way, that is, in various ways and aspects and from many angles—Eph. 3:10.
  - 3. Eventually, Satan, God’s enemy, will be subdued and will come to know God’s multifarious wisdom—v. 10.
- D. When God’s chosen and redeemed people partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ, these riches constitute them the church, through which God’s multifarious wisdom is made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenlies—vv. 8-10:
  - 1. The day is coming when, through the church, Satan and his angels will be put to shame.
  - 2. They will realize that everything they have done has given God the opportunity to manifest His wisdom.