

Christian Students Association Bible Study

December 2, 2020

The Stewardship (Eph. 3:7-8, 13)

7 Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me according to the operation of His power.

8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

The Revelation of the Mystery (Eph. 3:9-12)

9 And 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,

10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

12 In whom we have boldness and access in confidence through faith in Him.

13 Therefore I ask you not to faint at my afflictions for your sake, since they are your glory.

Note for “minister” in verse 7 – A minister is one who serves. A minister of the gospel serves the gospel to people.

Note for “gift” in verse 7 – The grace of God is God Himself, especially as life, partaken of and enjoyed by us; the gift of grace is the ability and function produced out of the enjoyment of the grace of God. Grace implies life, and the gift is the ability that comes out of life.

Note for “riches” in verse 8 – The apostle announced not doctrines but the riches of Christ. The riches of Christ are what Christ is to us, such as light, life, righteousness, and holiness, what He has for us, and what He accomplished, attained, and obtained for us. These riches of Christ are unsearchable and untraceable.

Note for “mystery” in verse 9 – 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. This mystery was hidden in God throughout the ages, but now the New Testament believers, having been enlightened, are able to see it.

Note for “church” in verse 10 – As revealed in v. 8, the church is produced from the unsearchable riches of Christ. When God’s chosen people partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ, they are constituted with those riches to be the church, through which God’s multifarious wisdom is made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenlies. Hence, the church is God’s wise exhibition of all that Christ is.

Note for “access” in verse 12 – In Christ we have access, entry, not only that we may approach God but also that we may partake of His New Testament economy. Through faith in Christ we have such access—with boldness and in confidence—that we may enjoy God and His eternal plan (economy).

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between “doctrines” concerning Christ and the “riches of Christ”? Share some examples.
- What is the “economy” mentioned in verse 9, and who does it involve?
- What is one of the functions of the church as described in verse 10? Practically, how does this happen?