

Message: Decoding the Eternal Purpose Eph. 3:3-11

A. Intro

1. “I stand on the shoulders of giants.” – Jay Wilson, Steve Doty, Bill Compton – Thank You’s
2. Eph. 1:9-11 Preview – “the mystery,” “an administration,” “His purpose”

B. Eph. 3:3-11 Context & statement of the eternal purpose

1. Vs. 3-5

- a) The mystery now revealed – not in Ephesian letter.
- b) Col. 1:26&27 – the mystery defined

2. Vs. 6

- a) “Partakers of the promise”
 1. New Creation booklet, pp. 19-23
 2. “The promise of the Spirit” Gal. 3:14
- b) “Through the gospel”

3. V. 9

- a) “The administration of the mystery”
 1. “Administration” defined – “Oikonomia” house-law
 2. Decoded = “house-law of the indwelling H.S.”

4. V. 10

- a) “The manifold wisdom of God” many-faceted – root of Eng. **Pic** ture.
- b) “Made known through the church”
- c) “To the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies”
 1. Eph. 6:11&12
 2. Angels

5. V. 11

- a) “In accordance with” kata – Greek
- b) “The eternal purpose”
- c) “Which He [God] carried out in Christ Jesus”
 1. Jesus initially carried it out. prototype.
 2. The Church is the follow-through.
 3. The “appearance” of the Gospel
 - a) Obeying the Gospel
 - b) Walking in newness of life

C. Application

1. Why does God need us to show the angels His wisdom? –
Matt. 13:57/Mark 6:4-6 – A prophet not without honor... hometown, own household
2. I Cor. 4:9 (2) “Spectacle” – “a theater,” Acts 19:21 Gaius, Aristarchus –
Demetrius silver: Ephesus
3. I Cor. 6:3 – Judge angels: discernment/ability to decide, make right decisions.

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