

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 8 (#912188)
WEEK 2 (912342)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 8 – God Has A Plan And Everything Is Under His Control

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

When you get up in the morning and you grab your coffee and maybe sit down and turn on the television and you listen to the news does your heart trouble you? Or when you get in the car and you turn on the radio and all of a sudden you’ve heard about this calamity or that tragedy or or the opposition to Christianity, do you wonder “God, what on earth is happening? Where are You? What is taking place? Where is this going to end?” Well Beloved we’re going to talk about it today, the summing up of all things in Christ.

PART ONE

You pick up the phone. You turn on the news. You open a newspaper and you look at the calamities. You look at the tragedies. You look at the

catastrophes and you begin to think God, where are You? What is going on? Do You know about all these things? God what is happening? And the thing that you and I need to know is that God is full aware of what is happening. God knows exactly what He is doing. And this is what the book of Ephesians tells us about in this eulogy of praise that Paul breaks into in Ephesians chapter 1. I mean this eulogy of praise is pregnant. It is full term with truth and I just pray that God will use it to give birth to this truth in your heart so that Beloved no matter what comes our way, no matter the earthquakes, no matter the famines, no matter the thousands or tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands that are dying that you and I will be able to say “God, God it is hard. It is horrible. It is mind-boggling. It is overwhelming but I know You and I understand that You are working.” And, Beloved, listen to me very very carefully: He is working. He is at work and what He’s trying to do through all the calamities and the catastrophes and that He is trying to get our attention. And He is trying to get us to realize that we have to know what this Book says and we have to live according to this Book, not according to the popular theologies of the day, not according to the latest surveys, not according to the popularity of those that are explaining these things to us, but to know that we know truth for ourselves. So as we look at Ephesians chapter 1, I want us to move on now to the next part of this sentence. Remember Ephesians chapter 1 verse 3 through 14 is one sentence. And then verse 15 all the way through 23 is a second sentence. You say “It sure is a long sentence and it sure is taking you a while to get through it.” You’re right, you’re right. But this is foundational. And what you’re going to see today is going to enable you to walk with understanding through all that’s going on so that you are not what I would call; discombobulated. Discombobulated means you’re thrown right smack off your feet. Well let’s look at it, Ephesians chapter 1 and it says in verse 8 and I’m going to pick up in the middle of this because in the Bible they did put a period. It says, “**...In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the**

mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view....” (Ephesians 1:8b-10a) Now hang on it’s a little complicated, but “with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of...times, that is...,” and he’s going to explain this “...administration suitable to the fullness of...times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ....” (1:10a) “...things in heaven and things on the earth....” (1: 10b) And this is all I want us to look at. I want you understand this very important complicated part of this sentence, one that so many people just automatically gloss over when it really is foundational to your understanding and your peace with what is happening in the world. And so what God wants you and me to understand through this eulogy of praise is that God is operating in His wisdom. God is operating with His insight. God knows exactly what is happening in this world. There is not a thing that happens, listen very carefully, without His permission. Now I want you for just a minute so that you can see this in the Scriptures, I want you to go to Isaiah and it’s Isaiah chapter 45. Isaiah chapter 45. And this is where Isaiah is talking about God. As a matter of fact he’s quoting God speaking. And it says this in verse 5: “**I am the Lord...there is no other....**” I’m the only one. He says, “**...Besides Me there is no God....**” (Isaiah 45:5a) I mean Allah is not a god. Buddha is not a god, all the things that the 333 million gods that the Hindus are worshipping are not gods. There is no other god. They’re idols, but they’re not gods. They’re created by the imagination of man. They’re created by the hands of man. They have eyes but they can’t see. They have a nose but they can’t smell. They have a mouth but they can’t talk. They have hands but they can’t move. They have feet but they can’t walk. They’re the creation of man or whatever form they take. They might be a stick or a stone, but man is worshipping the figment of his mind. Man is worshipping the creation of his hands. And he says in Isaiah “**...there is no other [god]; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you...,**” (45:5b) and he’s speaking now to Cyrus and this is a prophetic

thing about a man that’s going to be born about 145 years later, a Persian king. He says “**...I will gird you, though you have not known Me; that men may know....**” God wants you to know this that “**from the rising to the setting of the sun there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.**” (Isaiah 45:5c-6) And this is what God wants you to understand. You say “That’s very bigoted.” It is not bigoted. It is truth. And you say, “But that doesn’t allow for other people’s religions.” Other people can worship whomever they want. True Christianity never forces you to worship God. Rather God draws you to Himself to cause you to worship Him. But Christianity is not going to go out and persecute other religions because they think that they are wrong. They’re not going to do a holy Jihad and put them to death. Christianity doesn’t do that. Christianity instead wants to seek your salvation rather than put you to death because you don’t agree with them. But what God wants you and me to understand is there is no other God. He says “**I am the Lord...there is no other; the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these [things].**” (Isaiah 45:6b-7) “I’m the One that creates well-being. I’m the One that creates calamity.” (Paraphrased) You say, but I don’t like that kind of God because it’s full of pain and it’s full of death and that that Precious One, is because you have not grown to that stature and to that maturity which takes time by understanding the whole counsel of God. Because once you understand the whole counsel of God or as you learn the whole counsel of God then you will change your concept of God and you’ll move from a human concept of God to a biblical concept of God. He says in verse 9 of the same thing and it says “**Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker—an earthenware vessel among the vessels of [the] earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing [that] you are making say ‘He has no hands?’**” (Isaiah 45:9) And so what he’s saying here is “Look don’t quarrel with Me. Listen to Me. Believe Me.” So we go back to Ephesians

chapter 1 and he’s saying, “...**In all wisdom and [in all] insight [God] He [has] made known to us...**,” to you and me, “...**the mystery of His will...**” (Ephesians 1:8b-9a) This is something that He has hidden. And we’re going to see this word “mystery” later on in chapter 3 and he’s going to explain to us a mystery that had been hidden from the foundation of the earth until the apostle Paul. A mystery is a truth that God keeps covered up until God is ready to unwrap it and you get to understand it. And so what he’s saying is now through Jesus “**He [has] made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention....**” (1:9a) Or it literally in the Greek “is according to His good pleasure,” according to God’s pleasure, not your’s, not mine. It’s “...**according to His kind intention....**” It’s according to His will. In other words when you really know God and you really understand God and you belong to God what you see is hey, the end is good. The end is good for me. The end is a benefit for me to live as Christ; to die is what, gain. It is far better to depart and to be with Christ. That’s what Paul said. So that’s the end and you see that. But what he’s saying is this is the kind intention of His will “**with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of...times....**” (1:10a) Now this is what we want to look at. And as we look at it once again what I want you to do is get out your paper and your pen and I want you to draw again. Draw that same straight line that we’ve been drawing on a number of programs. And if you are new and this is the first time you’ve seen the program, you sat down with me to study one on one I’m absolutely thrilled. You’re an answer to prayer and don’t go away cause you’re going to learn a lot. This program is designed to help you discover truth for yourselves so that you are anchored in that truth so that you know that you know that you know and you’re not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and going here and going there, but you can know that this is the way and you’re going to walk in it and you know it because you’ve seen and discovered truth for yourself, which, by the way you need to download our study guide. It’s absolutely free. Go to

“preceptsforlife.com,” “preceptsforlife, just one word, just put it all together, preceptsforlife.com” and you can download our study guide and we’ll get back to this drawing right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back Beloved. Now let’s go back to this verse because it’s so key. Remember when calamities and catastrophes and all sorts of things begin to happen you need to remember number one, that God is sovereign, that He rules over all, that there is only one God. There is no other. He creates good and He creates adversity or calamity. He is the Lord that does all these things. But you say “Why the calamity?” Well it’s because God is not only in charge, but God has a plan. And He’s executing that plan. And calamities are part of His plan. He warned us about these calamities. He told us about these calamities. When Jesus Christ was here on earth just one example; I could take you to many. But in Matthew chapter 24, this is what Jesus said. It says, “**...He was sitting on the Mount of Olives....**,” and they asked Him, “**... [What is] the sign of Your coming? [What is the sign] of the end of the age?**” (Matthew 24:3) “**And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See...that no one misleads you.’**” (24:4) So what I’m doing is I’m teaching you truth so that you’re not misled. He says, “**...many will come in My name [and will say] ‘I’m the Christ,’ and [He says he] will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you’re not frightened....**” (Matthew 24:5-6a) Now what keeps you from being frightened in these wars and rumors of wars? And the kind of wars that we’re fighting now with these wars that know no boundaries and where the enemy can come over and all of a sudden blow himself up and at the same time blow up hundreds of other people or just shutting down a city. What is to keep you from being frightened? He says “**See that you’re not frightened, for those things must take place....**,” this is Jesus speaking,

“...those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.” (24:6b) He says, **“For nation will rise against nation...kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But...these...are merely the beginning of birth pangs.” (24:7-8)** In other words, that’s just the beginning. It’s going to get far worse, more as you get to the end. But what you have to remember is that God is orchestrating things according to the kind intention of His will. So let me read this and then we’ll go back to our drawing. It says in verse 9: **“He made known to us the mystery of His will....” (Ephesians 1:9a)** He doesn’t want you “duh” not knowing what’s going on. **“...According to His kind intention....,”** or good pleasure, **“...which He purposed in Him.” (1:9b)** The **“in Him”** is in Christ. So you keep your eyes on Christ and you know what’s happening. And it says, **“With a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of...times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth....” (1:10)** All right, now is he saying? Well as we look at this line drawing that we have done over and over and over again, and we have a half circle on the left side of that line on the left side of your paper which says that’s the beginning of creation. All right then we put a cross okay and that cross represents A.D. 29 and the death... And you say I thought He died when He was 33. That’s not the issue. The issue is that He died. He died sometime between 29 and 30 A.D. All right now, He died when God was ready for Him to die. He was born, when God was ready for Him to be born. So I’m going to put a crib before the cross and I’m going to put a head in that crib and that represents Jesus Christ. All right now, what God is saying is “I have a plan. I am not only sovereign.” So over this whole line drawing up at the top I want you to put a triangle to represent God and then what I want you to do is to put a cloud around that so that you remember where God is. He is seated in the heavenly places. And so this is where God is. This is where His throne is. This is where He rules from. And He rules from the third heaven. There is the

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atmosphere, there is the stratosphere and then there is the third heaven. Now as we look at this he’s saying **“with...an administration suitable to the fullness of...times....” (Ephesians 1:10a)** Now that word for administration is “o-i-k-o-n-o-m-i-a,” all right? And this o-i-k-o is house. It’s the word for house or it’s the word for dwelling. And what he’s saying is that God is managing His house. God is doing what He is supposed to do as God. This is speaking of the management of a house, the ordering of a house or the ordering of affairs. And what it’s saying is that God has a divine government going on. Man can’t see it and most of the world doesn’t understand it. But listen to me very carefully, God doesn’t want you left in the dark and that’s why He ordained this program among many other wonderful programs, but He ordained this program that can be seen on television, that can be heard on radio so that people can go through the Bible book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse and study for themselves and discover what God is saying by observing the text, seeing what it says, by interpreting the text, by finding out what it means and then by applying it so that you know how you are to live or how you are to change your thinking. So when I go I’m changing, I’m turning my head from one side to the other to show that there is often in Bible study a change of mind because you believe one thing or you were taught growing up one thing and then you come to the Word of God, you discover truth for yourself, you see it for yourself and you say hey, I was wrong. All right, so what God does is God has an administration. God has a plan. He’s had that plan and we know that from before the foundation of the world because He chose you in Christ **“...before the foundation of the world....” (Ephesians 1:4b)** Now what is that plan? Well that plan is He’s going to send Jesus down here to earth to rule as King of kings and as Lord of lords. He’s going to rule over the earth. And when He rules over the earth then every knee eventually will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Philippians 2:10-11) All things will be summed up in Jesus Christ. And when all things are summed

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up in Jesus Christ then 1 Corinthians chapter 15 tells me that this is what is going to happen. **“Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and...authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all [of] His enemies under His feet.” (1 Corinthians 15:24-25)** The last enemy that will be abolished is death. So what is he saying to us? He’s saying to you in the midst of the calamities, in the midst of the catastrophes, in the midst of all the disturbances that are going on God has a plan and He’s working out that plan. And that plan has to deal with this first coming. We’re going to look at in the next program, and His second coming. And He’s going to sum up every single thing in Christ. You Beloved, if you’re in Christ are part of this plan.