

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 37 (#912217)
WEEK 8 (912348)
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 37 – Church Is About Us Being Trained To Minister
To Others**

TUESDAY

OPEN

When you think about the church what do you think about? Do you think about going to church and being entertained or being trained? When you think about going to church do you think about being ministered unto or learning how to minister to others? When you go to church do you think it’s all about *moi*, it’s all about me or do you think it’s about the kingdom of God? Oh Beloved we need to get our thinking straight about the church, cause we’re members of the church. Let’s see what God has to say, His precepts for life on the church.

PART ONE

When you think about the church, Beloved, you need to think about a group of individuals who have been gifted by God, given a certain measure of grace with which to serve Him and each member of that body of believers doing the work that God has called them to do. So if that’s going to happen it’s very essential that the church or the leaders of the church understand the purpose of the church so that the people in the church are doing what God ordained for the church to do. Well you’re the church. If you know Jesus Christ then you are part of the body of Jesus Christ. And so we’ve come to the section in Ephesians where he’s talking about [walking in a manner worthy or of the same weight of our calling in Christ Jesus.]

(PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:1) And if I’m going to walk in a manner worthy of the same weight, in other words I’m doing scales with my hands, but if I’m going to walk the way I ought to walk I have to understand that God has gifted me, that to each one of us has been given grace, unmerited, unearned favor, everything that you and I need from God as a gift according to the measure of Christ’s gift. So what I want us to do; we’ve looked at this. I’ve given you the big overview of Ephesians chapter 4, in verses 7 through 11. And now what I want to do is give you some cross references.

Remember one of the things that we’re teaching you as you learn how to study God’s precepts for life, which are His standards, His commandments, His truths, when you learn those truths one of the things that you have to do is you have to remember that this Book is God’s Book. This is God’s Word. And God’s Word does not contradict itself, but rather Scripture interprets Scripture. And so what you do many times is you take one verse of Scripture and you see what the rest of the Bible has to say that amplifies and increases your understanding of that verse. So this is what I would suggest that next to verse 7 and I’m talking about in your observation worksheets or in your Bible take a pencil so that if you want to erase it or you want to replace it

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you can do that or you want to ink it in you can do that, because once you ink it in it's permanent. All right, so we're going to write some cross-references. Now when I'm talking about your observation worksheets you may have just caught this program. You may not understand what is that lady talking about. Well an observation worksheet is the text of Scripture on which we mark in distinctive ways so that we can see what the text is saying. How do you get one of those? Well it's absolutely free. And all you have to do is go to "preceptsforlife.com" and you can download this. And it is free, although it takes work and salaries and everything to produce these things for you and to get them to you. Because of the gifts of people, because God is raising up an army of people that really believe in what we're doing, really believe that God's people have to be established in God's Word, that they've got to know truth for themselves, because God is raising up a group of people, and I pray that you will be among them, to help us in this ministry then we are able to teach people all around the world in 121 countries and in 67 languages. We're able to take this broadcast and broadcast it in other languages around the world so that they can study and provide them with a study guide. So you go to "preceptsforlife.com" and you download the study guide. All right now next to verse 7 what you're going to do is you're going to write "CF." CF means compare this with. And we're going to compare it first with a Scripture in the book of Ephesians because the context of Ephesians and the use of grace will amplify what he's saying all the way through. So you write "3:7." And what I want you to do is go to chapter 3 and we're going to look at verse 7. But before we do and you may want to add this verse. I want to make sure you get 7 down, but before we do I want to go back and put you into context. All right, chapter 3, verse 1 Paul says, **"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—"** (Ephesians 3:1) Remember this is a Gentile church that he's writing to. **"If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God...,"** now watch, **"...of God's grace which was given to me for you."** (3:2) What is

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he saying to us? Well what he’s saying at this point is, look, did you hear about the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you? In other words, God in His grace gave me this assignment. And He gave it to me; now watch, not for me, but for you. That’s the purpose of the church. The purpose of your spiritual gift and we’re going to look at that in just a minute is not for your benefit, but it’s for the benefit of others. When you think of church never think just for my benefit. In other words, not for my entertainment but for my training, not for me just to be ministered unto, which should happen, but for me to minister to others. Always think of a flow out from you to others because God has a purpose for your life. God had a purpose for Paul’s life. He gave him this mystery of the gospel, Jew and Gentile in one body and He wanted Paul to take that message to the Gentiles so that they could know salvation was not just for the Jews, but it was for the Gentiles also. So now we come to verse 7. Now what you’ve done and what we teach you is you mark key repeated words. See I can look down at my Bible right now and when I look down at my Bible I can see where “grace” is used because I’ve marked it in a distinctive way. I look down and I see the word “mystery” because I’ve marked it in a certain way. I see the word “power” because I’ve marked it in a distinctive way. So as you study the Bible and I would suggest that you do it on your observation worksheets until you become experienced, and then you actually do it in your Bible. And I would suggest that you get an “Inductive Study Bible.” They’re awesome Bibles. They have wide margins and they tell you how to go through every book of the Bible and mark it on your own. And it’s the best Bible to me that there is because it does not tell you what to believe but it shows you how to discover truth for yourself. All right so in verse 7 this is what he’s saying. He’s talking about “**...the gospel, of which I was made a minister, according...,**” now watch “**...according to the gift of God’s grace....**” (Ephesians 3:6d-7a) [“...I was made a minister to the gospel according to the gift,”] (PARAPHRASE, 3:7a) and here’s a gift again of

God’s grace. In other words God gifted me to take the gospel to you and to others. So he says, **“of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me...,”** this grace was given to me, **“...according to...His power.” (3:7)** What happened is we get saved. The Spirit moves in. We have then inherent power. It is God power. It is not man power; it is God power. And that inherent power in us along with the measure of God’s grace whatever He’s given us enables us to do the work of God. And that’s what the church is all about. The church is God’s ordained instrument on the face of this earth at a certain point and a certain time in order to accomplish His purpose for that time in history. You’re part of history, Beloved. You are part of history. You’re a significant part of history. This is why I love church history. I love reading about my brothers and my sisters in Christ and how they stood for God and how they used the gifts and how they were used to change the course of a nation, how they were used to change politics, how they were used to change social issues, how they were used to go out and to take those pitiful poor people that were thrown, let’s say in England, and in these houses for these prisons for those that were poor, and to minister to them, how they went into the hospitals. God has a job for the church and you’re part of the church. So this is what I want you to see. All right I also want you to see in verse 8 it says, **“To me, the very least of all [the] saints...,”** it says, **“...this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.” (Ephesians 3:8)** Now how did he go out and preach that gospel to the Gentiles? [“...According to the measure of Christ’s gift.”] (Paraphrased, Ephesians 4:7c) Now what does this say to us? Well I want to take you to one of my favorite scriptures. Of course I have so many of them, but one of my favorite scriptures that many times I will put in a book when I sign it and it’s 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 10. And this is what Paul says. He’s giving his testimony and he says, **“...By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace [which was poured out on me was not poured out in] vain; but I**

labored ... more than [them all], yet not I, but the grace of God [in] me.”
(1 Corinthians 15:10 NAS/KJV) What does that mean? We’ll talk about it
in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back. Let’s go back to 1 Corinthians chapter 15. Now we’re studying Ephesians 4. We’re looking at the measure of Christ’s gift that is given to each one of us. We’re looking at the fact that we are a member of the church. And the question is when we go to church do we want to be trained or entertained? Do we want to be ministered unto or do we want to learn how to minister? You know is church all about *moi*, all about me or is it about me being ready and equipped to do the work of God and further the kingdom of God? What’s it all about? Well we’re looking at this grace, this grace that was poured out on each one of us, was given to us in a measure. We looked at Paul and I just took you to 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 10 and it says, **“But by the grace of God I am what I am....” (1 Corinthians 15:10a)** And I want you to know that God takes the sum total of your life, Precious One, and He uses every experience to make you what you are, but He also uses all those experiences and infuses them with His grace so what may have been evil turns out working together for good in order to accomplish God’s purpose for your life. And so he says, **“...By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain....” (15:10a)** Now what does it mean to not prove vain? I mean it’s not kind of the way that we always talk. What he’s saying is this, listen, when God poured out that grace on me it didn’t lay there and it wasn’t unused. It wasn’t a gift that He gave me that I never unwrapped. It wasn’t a wellspring of power that I needed that I never plumbed the depths of. He said listen, [“the grace of God that was given to me was not poured out on me in vain.”] (PARAPHRASE, 15:10a) It was not useless. **“...But I labored...more than**

[them all]....” (15:10b) In other words what God gave me, the measure that He gave me I used up every bit of that measure of that grace. And he said, “...I labored...more than [them all]....” (15:10b) He’s talking about the other apostles. And yet he said, “...Yet, not I...,” and I want you to understand this. He’s saying that I understand it. It wasn’t me, “...but it was the grace of God [in] me.” (15:10c) It’s grace, Beloved, for service. It’s grace for power. It’s grace that comes with the gift of the Holy Spirit. So now as we make our marks, as we do our cross-referencing the next one I want you to write down next to verse 7 is “1 Peter 4:10.” Now you know when you do these things. I want you to turn to 1 Peter 4:10 while I’m talking to you. But when you do these things, Beloved, when you write these in your Bible then you’ve always got it when you go to show someone else. And even if you’re not a teacher you’re going to be explaining truth to them. All right, so in 1 Peter chapter 4, verse 10 this is what he says. “As each one has received a special gift....” (1 Peter 4:10a) Now what does Ephesians 4, verse 7 says? “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Ephesians 4:7) So it’s to each one of us. In 1 Peter it says, verse 10, “As each...has received a special gift....” (1 Peter 4:10a) Each one of us has a special gift a spiritual gift. “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving....,” yourself? “...Employ it....,” so you get the glory? No. “...Employ it in serving one another as [a] good steward of the manifold....” And there’s that word “grace” again. You want to circle it or mark it however you’re marking “grace”. “...Of the manifold grace of God.” (4:10b) So what he’s saying first of all and I want you to see this, is, just as Ephesians 4 says you’ve been given a measure of the gift of God. Each one of us has a gift from God. You are now to employ it. You are to employ it not for yourself, but you’re to employ it for others. This is what the church is all about. The church is all about the power of God, the gift of God, the grace of God coming into us and not stopping, but flowing out from us to others. So he goes on to say, “Whoever speaks....”

(4:11a) You can take the gifts and divide them basically into speaking gifts and serving gifts. **“Whoever speaks is to do [it] as one who is speaking the utterances of God....” (4:11a)** If you’re going to stand up and you’re going to talk to people and listen to me very carefully, use the Word of God. The problem is we’re hearing sermons and messages and we’re going to conferences and we’re hearing testimonies and stories and we love them and they are exciting, but they’re not going to change your life. It’s only the Word of God. So even if you give your testimony lace it with the Word of God. If you’ve gotten my testimony and you can go on line to [“preceptsforlife.com”](http://preceptsforlife.com) and and and order it and you will see that it is loaded with Scripture. He says, **“...Whoever serves is to do [it] as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies....” (1 Peter 4:11b)** Now we saw that He gives strength to us according to the working of His strength and we saw that in Ephesians. **“...So that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ....” (4:11c)** The problem is sometimes we start to glorify men and women and we start to worship them and idolize them and we just want to be with them and we just want to see them and I just want to touch them and oh! I have a purse like she has or oh! I have a coat like he has or oh, oh, oh. Forget it. It is all about God. It is all about Jesus. Any body starts getting like this with me, oh, it scares me to death. So it’s all about God. And this is what he’s saying. Go to Romans chapter 12, Romans, chapter 12. This is the next Scripture you want to write down. And in “Romans chapter 12, verse 3” this is what he says: **“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has [allowed] each...,”** now watch, **“...a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)** In other words God never expects you to go beyond the measure of faith that He has given you, the measure of grace that He has given you. You’re accountable to use that measure of faith. You’re accountable to use that measure of grace, but you don’t have to go beyond it.

It says, **“For...as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since [then] we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us....”** He says, **“According to the grace given to us, [let] each of us...exercise them accordingly....” (Romans 12:4-6a)** And then he goes into some of the gifts and tells you how you’re to exercise it. So what is God’s word to you today? God’s word to you today is that church is not all about you. It’s not about you being entertained, but it’s about you being trained. We’re going to see that next when we get to the rest of Ephesians chapter 4. But what I want you to understand is this: that God has given you a gift, **“as each one [of] us has received a special gift...,”** from God. **(1 Peter 4:10a)** And what you’re to do as a member of the church, Precious One, you’re to take that gift and you’re to employ it serving one another. What is church about? A church is about and we’re going to see this, about equipping you for the work of ministry. Church is about you not being entertained, but you being trained for the work of ministry. Church is about you understanding your gift, operating in it and using all the measure of the grace that God has given you. And when it’s that way then the kingdom of God is going to be impacted by you.