

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 9 (#912189)
WEEK 2 (912342)
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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 9 – God Has An Inheritance For His Children**

THURSDAY

OPEN

As a Christian right now you may be the underdog, you may be the one that is despised, you may be the one that is scorned, the one that is rejected but I want to tell you something. If they knew, if they understood what is yours because you are His. I mean their mouths would be open and they would be drooling. God has an inheritance for you and it’s all summed up in Christ and that’s what we’ll see today.

PART ONE

I think that because Christianity is becoming less and less popular and because people have a tendency to look down at us. They look at us and they think, “Oh you’re a Christian. You’re stupid.” “Oh, you’re a Christian. Get back in your church. You’re not supposed to be involved in politics. You’re

not supposed to care what’s going on in this world. Just go cloister yourself within the four walls of the church. Go do it and stay there and I don’t want to hear anything. You can talk to me about any other religion but don’t talk to me about Christianity,” because they don’t want to hear it and yet really if they understood, if the God of this world had not blinded their eyes and their eyes were open to see who you are, whose you are and the inheritance that God has for you as I said they would literally be drooling. Well, they’re not going to see, but I want you to see and I want you to drool, okay. So, my friend, sit down and let’s open the Word of God. Let’s study God’s precious Word one on one and of course we’re still in that eulogy of praise but we’re coming to the close of that eulogy of praise and then we’re going to move into this awesome, awesome prayer. And yet this eulogy of praise is loaded with doctrine. It’s loaded with those fundamental things about Christianity that you and I need to know. Now if we were to study this carefully and compared scripture with scripture we would see that these are the the basics of Christianity. I mean, this is the milk and then you go on to meat and yet boy, is this rich milk. I mean, after all we could take that advertisement and we could have a milk mustache here for the Word of God because we’ve been tasting and seeing that God is good. Well, remember in our last program I was talking about the summing up of all things in Christ. Well let’s go back and look at that and tie that in with part of what’s going to happen when everything is summed up in Jesus Christ. Ephesians chapter 1 in verse 8 in the second part of the verse, “**...In all wisdom and [might] He...,**” God, “**...has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him.**” (Ephesians 1:8b-9) In other words, God is opening up a mystery to you. It’s the mystery of God’s will. It’s the mystery of understanding everything that God is going to do and everything that He’s going to accomplish through Jesus Christ. So it’s the mystery of His will according to His kind intention or His good pleasure. Now what I want you to see is it’s His pleasure, not yours. It’s His

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kind intention. It's not yours and yet I don't know why when it literally says "His good pleasure" they translated it His kind intention except maybe they were simply looking at the character of God. So many times things get so rough and so many times we are degraded and we are to demeaned and people don't want us around because our lifestyle is different and because by the very way that we live, we uncover their sin and we expose their sin as they look at us and who wants their sin exposed? They don't want to hear it and they don't want to see it and they don't want to have it exposed because they love darkness rather than light. And that's why as John says in that 3rd chapter [they won't come to the light because they don't want their deeds to be seen as being evil.] (PARAPHRASE, John 3:20) But now when we come to this, this is the [kind intention, this is the good pleasure of God's will which He purposed in Christ.] (PARAPHRASED, Ephesians 1:9) Now this is the key. Christ is the centerpiece and everything about His will has to do with Christ. Remember this is the promised one. The one that was promised when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. The first promise of the coming Messiah of *the* Christ and Messiah is the Hebrew word. The Christ is the Greek word. So the first promise of Him was in Genesis chapter 3, verse 15 after Adam and Eve sinned God let them know the kind intention of His will which He purposed in Him. Now it was going to be almost 4,000 years before Messiah would ever show up but it wasn't that God wasn't busy behind the scenes. It wasn't that God was not invading history and the earth and humanity and moving. And we see theophanies, a pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus Christ in form of an angelic being that comes to talk about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and to explain to Abram, because Abram is His friend, what is going to happen. So the world looks on and the world despises but God's people are never to be left in the dark. There's a verse in Amos and it says, "[God does nothing but what He lets His prophets know ahead of time.]" (PARAPHRASE, Amos 3:7) So when we look and we study then we know what's going to come to pass. And it's,

“With a view...,” that which He purposed in Him, in Christ, **“With a view to [the] administration....” (Ephesians 1:10a)** Now remember we saw that that’s the ordering of a household. It is the divine management of God’s government of His affairs, **“...suitable to the fullness of times....” (Ephesians 1:10a)** In other words it’s going to come in the fullness of time, **“...that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in...heaven and things on...earth. In Him,” (Ephesians 1:10b)** and remember this is a key repeated phrase that we are marking. Now if you’re new to the program I want you to know we are so glad to have you, because we are looking for people who are looking for truth. We are looking for people who want to discover truth for themselves and we have made provision for you to learn how to study the Word of God, how to discover truth for yourself. And you can just go to our website preceptsforlife.com and there you can download our study guide and there you can learn a lot about this ministry. Well, he says, **“Also we...,” (1:11a) “...in Him...,” (1:10b)** and you would mark that with a red cloud cause we’re marking every reference to “in Christ” and then when you get those red clouds marked you look and you see, Okay, what do I have in Him? What is He telling me about being in Him? And when you make a list of everything that it tells you about in Him what you have or in Him what is done I mean it just blows your mind. It’s so exciting. And he goes on to say, **“...In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined....” (Ephesians 1:10b-11a)** Now remember we’ve looked at that word before because that word predestined is used in verse 5 and it’s **“proorizo”**, p-r-o-o-r-i-z-o in the Greek. “Pro” means before and it’s planned out before. It is something that has been predetermined. And so he says, **“Also we have...an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose...,”** God’s purpose, **“...who works all things after the counsel of His will.” (Ephesians 1:11)** You know that is tremendously good news because it lets you know hey, God’s in charge. He has a divine plan. He is carrying out that divine plan everything is on

schedule even the birth of Jesus Christ was on schedule. Remember, **“...suitable to the fullness of time....” (1:10b)** So what I want you to do is I want you to go back one book in the Bible to Galatians and I want you to go to Galatians chapter 4 and I want to show you this term **“...the fullness of time...”** and I want to show you how God is on schedule, how God is ordering or administrating His household, how He is **“...summing up [everything] in Christ....” (1:10b)** So in Galatians chapter 4 this is what it says. It says verse 4, **“But when the fullness of...time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.” (Galatians 4:4)** In other words He lived under the Law, under the Torah, under Genesis and Exodus and Leviticus and Numbers and Deuteronomy. He lived during that covenant period when God’s people were ruled by the commandments. The 10 Commandments that they want to get rid of in the United States. The 10 Commandments that are the basis of law and morality and if we would post them and if we would fear God and we would know them then you and I wouldn’t be living in such traumatic times. We wouldn’t have people treating people the way they do because there was a day when they were posted. There was a day in this country when the law was taught, when they learned their alphabet according to the Word of God and the principles and precepts of God’s Word and when they did, Beloved, there was a fear of God. There was a respect of God. There was a trust of God and when there is a fear of God and a respect of God and a trust of God then there is a restraint against evil. And so what you see is it says, **“...that He might redeem those [you and me] who were under the Law....” (Galatians 4:5a)** Those who were Jews, those who were condemned by the Law because they couldn’t keep it and he says, **“...that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:5b)** Now having studied Ephesians chapter 1, having gone over these verses and this eulogy of praise and verses 3 through verse 14, what you have seen is you have seen that word redemption. You know that it means to purchase by paying a price. You

know that we were redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. You know that Jesus had to come then so it was the fullness of times and you know that He and God had a plan. Well we’re going to look at that. We’re going to go and draw this out in our mind’s eye so that we can see what’s coming in the future and when we get our inheritance. We’ll be right back but don’t miss this important announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back, my friend. I guess you know and understand why I so freely call you Beloved, don’t you? I mean when you study Ephesians you have to know that you are beloved by this God who has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places. Beloved is a term that I’m known for and people have told me over and over again, “No one’s ever told me that I’m beloved.” But, Beloved, when you read the Word of God, when you read the epistles you see that Peter uses the word, you see that Paul uses the word, you see that Jude uses the word because this is what you are. You’re beloved because you become a child of God or because God has chosen you and is in the process of bringing you into His family and the process of of adopting you as His child. Remember in Ephesians we saw that He predestined us, He marked out beforehand, He determined beforehand to adoption as sons. Well now I left you in Galatians chapter 4 and in Galatians chapter 4 it’s talking about when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law. He goes on to say so that you and I might receive adoption as sons, **“Because you are sons, God has [set] forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”** (Galatians 4:6) Now Abba is the Jewish word for father and you’ll see little children in Israel if you go to Israel with us, they’ll say, “Abba, Abba,” and all of a sudden your heart will leap because you hear that Abba and you say, “Oh! I know about that.” That’s what you can call God. You can call Him

Abba. You can call Him Father. Abba is a term that the Jews use from childhood. He says, “...[He] **has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ Therefore...,**” now watch, **“Therefore you are no longer a slave...,”** why? You’ve been redeemed. He says, **“...but [you’re] a son; and if a son, then an heir [of] God.” (Galatians 4:6b-7)** In other words if God has adopted you, then God has for you, Beloved, an incredible inheritance. Let’s look at it. Let’s go to 1 Peter chapter 1 for just a minute and let me read this to you because it’s so awesome. And it says this, it says in verse 3 and it opens again with a blessed. It says, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in [that] last time.” (1 Peter 1:3)** You know what I want you to do now? I want you to take a piece of paper and once again I want us to draw our famous line, okay? We’ve been doing this if you’ve just joined us it is a straight line. Well mine’s a little bit crooked and on the left hand side there is a like a C or a half moon facing that line. That C or half moon is the creation of the world and we know that God existed before the creation of the world and that God chose you in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world and that what He did before the foundation of the world is He predestined you to adoption as a son. And if He adopts you as a son then what you become is you become an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. So the one who was with you before the foundation of the world, the one who was going to die for you and that death is planned before the foundation of the world is the only begotten Son of God and this only begotten son of God is an heir of everything that God has and He has made you a joint heir, God has made you a joint heir with Jesus Christ. And so what we just read from 1 Peter is

there is an inheritance and that inheritance is reserved for you in heaven. So I'm going to draw a cloud up at the right hand side of the corner of my paper and as I draw that cloud up in the right hand side I'm going to say, "That's heaven," alright? "And in heaven is my inheritance." And so I want you to write down "my inheritance" above that cloud. And it's your inheritance and it's mine and Jesus' inheritance, okay? So you're a joint heir with Christ. You say, "Okay, that's coming." That's right. That is coming but I want you to know, Precious One, that He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. And we're going to see this in the prayer when we study that next and that's going to be in two programs from now and when we study that you're going to see the power that is yours. But first of all what I want you to see is I want you to see what God is doing in this summing up of all things in Christ. All right, we saw in our last program that Jesus Christ died. That was about AD 29. All right now, when Jesus left and He ascended to the Father where He sits at the right hand of the throne of God. So let's put the throne of God here and Jesus is sitting at the right hand. So I'm going to put the throne of God up in heaven and I'm going to put a cross to the right of that throne as you're sitting on it and that's where Jesus Christ is. He's there now but what we're doing is we're living in a time called the church age. We're living in a time where God is bringing to Himself more and more sons, where He is building for Himself a household, where He is making a one new man, where He is forming the temple of God, a living temple made up of believers. And yet we're in the world but we're not of the world. Well the Bible tells me that what's going to happen is in the future Jesus Christ is going to come. He's going to leave heaven and it's called the second coming of Christ. So I'm going to put a cloud, a blue cloud and I'm going to go over near the end of the line and that's the coming of Jesus Christ. And He's going to come to earth and when He comes to earth what He's going to do is He's going to subdue all the enemies of God. He's going to set up His throne down here on earth. He's going to set it up in the

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city of Jerusalem and He is going to rule and reign on the face of this earth for 1,000 years and that 1,000 years is talked about in Revelation chapter 20 and it's mentioned 6 times in 7 verses. And He's going to rule and reign for a thousand years. During that thousand years and at the end of it with the battle of Gog and Magog, He's going to put everything in subjection under the feet of Jesus Christ. Now when do you get your inheritance? Well, when you die and you go to heaven because absent from the body present with the Lord, when you die and you go to heaven then you find out and you see your inheritance in full. And when Jesus Christ comes back down to earth then you come back down with Him and Beloved, when you come back down with Him and every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father, they're going to see, Hey, there You are and I scorned you and I rejected you and they're going to see now you have been exalted as you rule and reign with Jesus Christ. This is the summing up of all things in Christ. It's awesome and we'll be looking at it more and more as we go along.