

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 28 (#912208)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

**TITLE: Program 28 – We Impact The Souls Of Men By Our Walk
With The Lord**

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Do you realize, my friend, that there is a battle going on for the minds and souls and hearts of men and you as a child of God are part of God’s eternal purpose to show the devil the great and glorious salvation of God and His manifold wisdom in sending Jesus Christ to die and to redeem us from the power of the devil.

PART ONE

O Beloved, what we began in our last program I want to finish in this program. I think it is so important for you to understand fully who you are and that the fact that the way that you live is so crucial to the big plan of God, to the manifold wisdom of God. So let’s open the Word of God and let’s look again at Ephesians 3 and then from Ephesians 3, I’m going to

spring to other scriptures so that as I spring to these other scriptures you will see God’s precepts for life for you and for me because there is a battle raging. There is a battle raging for the souls and the minds and hearts of men and you know as we look at our culture and as we study these impact that the church is having on the culture it is not a great impact. As a matter of fact when you look at the stats that Barna and others get, you find out that we’re more like the world than we’re like Christ and something is terribly wrong. Either we’re not genuinely born again and true children of God or else we have become so entangled with the affairs of this life that we are not pleasing God and therefore people look at us and they say, “You know, what difference does Christianity make?” So let’s go to Ephesians chapter 3. We’re looking at the mystery of the church and I should say the mystery of the church is Jew and Gentile in one body. Now you and I, Jew and Gentile in one body have become a new entity. We have become a new class of mankind. Until the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ there were two classes of people. There were the Jews and there were the Gentiles but now that Christ has come there’s a whole new classification. And that classification is there is the church, there is the body of Jesus Christ, there is this one new man. Our citizenship is in heaven. We’re waiting for Jesus Christ who comes but as we wait we are to occupy until He comes. Because we are here to show to the world and to show to the principalities, and the powers, and the rulers and authorities in high places the manifold wisdom of God in creating, now listen carefully, in creating one new man, in creating the church, in creating Jew and Gentile in one body. In doing this by grace and not by law so that through Jesus abolishing in His body the enmity of the law might bring us together into one new man. Now, let’s look at Ephesians chapter 3. It says in verse 9 he wants **“...to bring to light....”** (Ephesians 3:9a) In other words, **“...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”** (1 John 5:19b) They are children of the sons and kingdom of darkness and they are ruled over by these principalities and powers. And so

he wants, **“...to bring to light what is the administration...,”** the outworking, the ordering of this, **“...mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom...,”** I mean this awesome incredible wisdom, **“...of God might...be made known...,”** now here it is, **“...known through the church....”** (Ephesians 3:9-10a) What is Ephesians all about? Ephesians is all about the church. Now you’ve got to remember that those in Ephesus that came to know Jesus Christ, many of them came out of the occult. Others came out of idol worship. They were worshipping Diana or they were worshipping Artemis, the other name for Diana and now they’ve come out. Now they are Gentiles joined with Jews. Paul was a Jew and he brought the gospel to them along with others and now those Jews and Gentiles are joined together to show that Ephesian society and to show the powers and principalities that in a sense rule over Ephesus to show them what it’s like to become a child of God and the marvelous thing that God has wrought in this one new man. So he says, **“So that the manifold wisdom of God might...be made known through the church to the rulers and...authorities in the heavenly places.”** (Ephesians 3:10) Now watch, **“This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He...,”** God, **“...carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Ephesians 3:11) It was an eternal purpose. Now what I want us to do and I forgot to tell, don’t throw away your piece of paper. Because our piece of paper from the last program showed what God is doing from the first coming of Jesus Christ, the cross, all the way over to the right hand side of the page to the second coming of Jesus Christ which is the throne that is down here on earth where Jesus Christ rules as King of kings and Lord of lords. Now in between the cross and then when He comes to rule what we have is we have man down here on earth representing the church, Jew and Gentile in one body with a cross in His hand. Above that is a dark cloud. That dark cloud represents the authorities and the rulers in high places. I put two eyeballs dropping out of that dark cloud because all of heaven is witnessing what’s

going on down here on earth. Then I put a nose and I put a mouth coming from the cloud and the mouth is wide open because it's supposed to look at us in utter amazement and see what this church is like, what this one new man is like. And they're to see that we are different than anybody else in the face of the earth, that we are a separate people, a people that are called out, a people of God's own possession. In fact let's just take a moment and see how God describes this or how He uses Peter to describe this in 1 Peter chapter 2 because it is an excellent, excellent description. So if you'll go in your Bibles to 1 Peter chapter 2. And in 1 Peter chapter 2 this is what he says in verse 9, **"But you are a chosen race..., you are, "...a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."** (1 Peter 2: 9-10) So this is who we are. We're a chosen race. We're a royal priesthood. We're a holy nation. We are a people for God's own possession. And this is what He has brought into the marvelous light in this whole world that lies in darkness and under the power of the evil one. All right now, how you and I live down here, how you and I live down here is to reflect, listen, the power of God that has been put within us and it is to show and demonstrate God's eternal purpose. So as we look at this drawing if I were to take this line and as you look at it and extend it to the left, we would go back to the creation of the world and when we go back to the creation of the world we would know that God had a purpose, an eternal purpose in Christ. **"Blessed be the God and Father...Lord Jesus Christ, who's blessed us with every spiritual blessing in...heavenly places...just as He..., God, "...chose us in Him..., in Christ, "...before the foundation of the world...."** (Ephesians 1:3-4a) So you start from before the foundation of the world with Christ with your salvation which He planned in His time to make you a member, a member. I mean this is not

David who was a Jew and a Jewish king and a man after God’s own heart. This is you and you’re different than what David was because you are part of the church. You are one new man and that’s what Ephesians is about. Ephesians is about this church that’s made up of Jews and Gentiles and everything in Ephesians in a sense centers around this mystery of the church. Jew and Gentile in one body, living in the midst of darkness, living in the light, walking in the light and manifesting to the principalities and powers God’s eternal purpose and God’s manifold wisdom in bringing about so great a salvation. If you and I could only get it in our heads, if we could only get it in our minds, if we could only remember it in every trial, in every test, in every temptation that when I yield to that temptation, when I don’t count it joy in that trial, when I react instead of walking in the Spirit that what I am doing is I am clouding heaven’s vision of what God is doing in this great redemption and making this one new man. You know, you look at the popularity of the book, The Purpose Driven Life but do you understand that this purpose driven life is really Christ in you the hope of glory lived out in every attitude and avenue of your life manifesting to the world and manifesting to the principalities the power of God in you? Now what I want us to do is I want us to look at Satan. I took you to Revelation chapter 12 and I told you that there was a dragon and I told you that his tail swept away a third of the stars of earth. Those are the angels, the angelic beings that crossed over in order to follow Satan, all right? And so there are good angels as we have in our drawing with a little smiley face and a halo over them and there are bad angels. All right, we’re going to look at those bad angels in just a moment.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I want us now to go to Ephesians chapter 3 and I want you to see one thing in Ephesians chapter 3 and how it relates to what

was said in chapter 1. So Ephesians chapter 3 and let's look at it. He says in verse 10, **“So that the manifold wisdom of God might...be made known through the church...,”** now watch, **“...to the rulers and...authorities in the heavenly places.”** (Ephesians 3:10) Well he's mentioned these rulers and authorities earlier. I want you to go back to Ephesians chapter 1 and it's talking about the surpassing greatness of God's power towards us who believe. And then He says in verse 20 of Ephesians chapter 1, **“Which He...,”** God, **“...brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”** (Ephesians 1:20) So let's go back to our drawing. Now I trust that you have gone to the website and that you would have downloaded this drawing or that you would have downloaded our study guide by going to [“preceptsforlife.com”](http://preceptsforlife.com) and so you have the drawing in front of you. But Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, so next to that triangle at the top of our drawing that represents God on the right hand side; I'm going to put Jesus in this configuration of a cross. And so it's God and it's Jesus that is above all these powers. He's at the top of the page, all right. He's on His throne in heaven, in the third heaven. Now watch what it says in Ephesians chapter 1, **“Far above...,”** and here's the same words you saw in Ephesians chapter 3, **“Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but...in the one to come.”** (Ephesians 1:21) So what we have is we have eternal beings up here in heaven. We have angels. We have the good angels. We have the bad angels. Let's go to Revelation 12 because I referred to that earlier and I referred to it in our last program. And in Revelation chapter 12 this is what it says in verse 4, **“...his tail...”** speaking of the dragon and we know that the dragon is Satan. (Revelation 12:4a) And by the way I put a red pitch fork in my Bible over every reference to the “devil.” So I have it on “his.” **“And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth....”** (Revelation 12:4a) Now that **“...third of the stars**

of heaven...” from putting all the scriptures together and we don’t have time to do that but a third of the stars of heaven are not talking about those stars that you and I see when we look up in a black night and see those sparkly little diamonds of stars. He’s talking about angelic beings. In Job 38, as I told you, the stars of heaven are a reference to the angels. (Job 38:7) So Satan took a third of the angels and he threw them to the earth. Now when you come down in verse 7, you see that there is a **“...war in heaven, Michael and his angels....” (Revelation 12:7)** Now we know from studying the scriptures, from studying the Old Testament, that Michael is one of the chief angels that serves God. All right and it says **“...his angels....” (Revelation 12:7)** So Michael has his angels. It’s like a hierarchy or it’s like a military with a governing with a commander in chief and then people underneath him. So you have Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon and it says and, and **“...the dragon....,”** and I’ve got a red pitch fork there, **“...and his angels waged war.” (Revelation 12:7b)** So what I want you to see is there is a heavenly conflict going on between the good angels and the bad angels and so this conflict is going back and forth between these two. There’s a war that is being waged. Now you pick up that war when you go to Daniel. And if you’ll go to the book of Daniel because it gives us insight into all of this and if you go to Daniel chapter 10. Now in Daniel chapter 10, Daniel has been mourning. Daniel has been fasting. Daniel has been seeking God and and all of a sudden in this conflict in trying to understand this vision finally there comes a man to his rescue. The man who comes to his rescue is not a human being. It’s an angelic being. Listen to what he says. He says, **“...‘Do not be afraid, Daniel,...from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before...God, your words were heard, ...I’ve come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me...twenty-one days; [and] behold, Michael, one of the chief [priests,]”** and we know that he’s an angel, **“...came to**

help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.” (Daniel 10:12-13) What is he saying? He’s saying this, Beloved. That there is a whole angelic host that is at war in heaven that is trying to hinder the work of God down here on earth. So what does that mean to you and to me today? What is this precept for life that you and I are to live in the light of? We’re to live in the light of the fact that we are part of God’s eternal purpose and that there is a warfare going on for the souls and minds and hearts of people, of men and women and children, of families and you and I need to be everything that God wants us to be. And you and I need to realize as Ephesians chapter 3 says, that we are part of God’s eternal purpose. Listen to what He says, **“...that the...wisdom of God might...be made known through the church...,”** through the church, **“...to the rulers and...authorities in...heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He...,”** God, **“...carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Ephesians 3:10-11) You say, “I’m not up to the battle.” Oh yes you are because Christ is in you and you are in Christ. And you have the power of God because you are seated with Jesus Christ in heavenly places far above all power and all rule and all authority. So He says, “[In whom] **Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we...,”** the church, **“...have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.** (Ephesians 3:11b-12) In other words you can do it. You can do it and you have confident boldness and access to God because of the Holy Spirit in you as He says in the church has given us access through the Spirit to God. And so down here on earth you can win the battle. Down here on earth you can manifest to the rulers and authorities and powers and to human beings what it means to be part of this one new man. What it means to be a child of God. And Paul shows us this. He says, **“Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulation on your behalf, for they are your glory.”** (Ephesians 3:13) Listen, he says my tribulations and what I go through are for your glory. They show everyone that we can do anything through Christ Jesus. He is in us and now

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we are to manifest to the world the manifold wisdom of God and making this one new man. O Precious One, remember who you are and live accordingly and remember that they are watching in the heavenly places and they are watching on earth and they need to see you walking according to who you are.