

**SERMON: To The Glory of God's Grace-  
The Two Mysteries of Christ & Bold Prayer at The Throne of God**

**GOOD Morning OIC & Welcome to Father's House**

**Today, we will continue in the Book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul. Last week we saw how Paul instructed the Ephesians, therefore all Christians, to live in God's perspective: the past, the present, and future of all Christians are by and to The Glory of God's Grace. Today, we see how Paul's special anointing by the Holy Spirit is to give him the knowledge where there used to be mystery about Christ regarding the Gentiles.**

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In AD 60 Paul wrote this Letter to the Ephesian Church and other churches in Asia from a prison in Rome. He was under house arrest with much freedom considering the strictness of the Roman military. Besides the right to have visitors, he obviously also had provisions to write letters.

Paul was in prison because he had offended Jews in Jerusalem as he had been preaching Salvation for the Gentiles. We see that the particular reason for his being arrested to stand trial began when the city was incited by Jews who hated Gentiles and Paul. The Roman Captain in the city later arrested him to save his life!

This is recorded in **(Acts 21.27-28)** *When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, 28 shouting, 'Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.'* **Thus he was in prison “ for the sake of you Gentiles.”**

However, the “big picture” behind Paul's imprisonment is clarified, I believe, from the wording in The JB Phillips paraphrase which nicely dovetails verse #1 and #2 together.

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Let us look at the Greek New Testament for this exegesis. There we see in **(Ephesians 3.2/ MOUNCE)** *assuming that you have heard about the **stewardship** of the grace of God that was given to me for you,*

The **(NIVUK)** word *administration*, from the original in the Greek, οἰκονομία (oikonomia), means **the management of a household; and,** for Paul's calling, this might mean **apostolic stewardship, a ministerial commission in the publication and furtherance of the Gospel.**

Note, I am attempting to give more details about Paul's calling so as to bring out the proper meaning to us of these synonyms: *administration*, *stewardship*, and *ministerial commission* and find a better synonym later in this exegesis.

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So Pastor Bruce, what is the difference of **Bold Authority** and a **Steward or Manager of God's Grace?** The Greek word I mentioned above, οἰκονομία (oikonomia), in its common everyday meaning is **management of a household.** Upon this common everyday meaning for **onoikomia**, I have based my exegetical decision for this difficult interpretation for the best meaning. Paul had such a close relationship with the Risen Lord and Spirit Anointing that he felt his ministry commission was for the **management of a household, The Household of God.**

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**Good managers who are wise in worldly businesses know the best results come when individuals are free enough to use their skills without too much constraint to accomplish the goals of that business. Well, this fact of human nature is part of God's ways. After all, He invented human nature and born-again Christians are still human. This was Paul's attitude whenever possible.**

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This is very powerful history and discipline by His Loving Lord about the Apostle who too many Christians almost “deify.” His greatness was matched by his humility. Men of Vision and Great Strategies to cause the Salvation of Sinners, can easily get upset and angry when others say no.

This includes when God says no. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Paul's commitment to: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God* as written in **(Romans 8.14/KJ21)**. **Paul somehow learned that being led by Holy Spirit had to be more important than the success of his strategies to evangelize the world.** Once he was free to know that the Spirit of Jesus agreed with his plan...**Then he became very BOLD!** He also then felt free to use his **planned strategies within the sphere of obedience.** He always aimed to evangelize and plant churches in major cities. This is the meaning of being a **Manager of God's Grace first, and then, as that Grace applied to the Household of God...The Church.**

## **TAKEAWAY # 2**

**Paul somehow learned that being led by Holy Spirit had to be more important than the success of his strategies to evangelize the world.** Dear OIC Christians, I pray this for you too! **This is the Rock of Confidence as you go forward walking to Glory with Jesus.**

The New Testament history records some groups in churches who questioned Paul's authority to correct their behaviour. We see this clearly in Paul's Second Letter to the Church at Corinth. Paul had planted or, that is, had begun, the Corinthian Church as we see in **(Acts 18.11)** *So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.* Yet some time later, we find in **(2 Corinthians 10.1-5)** that Paul must approach this church with: *By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you – I, Paul, who am 'timid' when face to face with you, but 'bold' towards you when away! 2 I beg you that when I come I may not **have to be as bold as I expect to be towards some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.*** Here Paul was dealing with Christians who did not see the true picture of the power that God gave to Paul as an anointed Spirit Filled Apostle after having been their first Pastor. These Jesus-followers are insensitive to Paul's affecting the spirit world : **God for them, and devils opposing them,** as they only seemed to have eyes for worldly things, and thus accused him of being worldly!

Now, what is the **Mystery?** Paul first reminds the Ephesians of Jesus' personal communications with him in, **(Ephesians 3.3-5)** *3 that is, the mystery made known to me **by revelation,** as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was **not made known** to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*

Paul is going slowly here in order to let these Gentile Christians understand how important to Jesus is this mystery now made known to him **by revelation.** Paul had a singular and unique role in clearing away the *Mystery* by his knowledge hidden to them. Paul is attempting to teach them to be able to understand *my {Paul's} insight into the mystery of Christ* in **(Ephesians 3.4).** Paul knew

the Older Testament Prophets told of this Unity of Jew and Gentile. Possibly the few Jews who really listened to their own prophets may have thought the following words by Isaiah were only poetic or allegorical and not literal.

To the prophet Isaiah, in **(Isaiah 49.6)**, God said,

*'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'*

### **A Mystery?**

As revealed In **(Ephesians 3.6)**: *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

### **TWO MYSTERIES: Salvation & Unity of Jew & Gentile**

Paul is not speaking here in this section of Ephesians of the **Mystery of Salvation**, and thus The Gospel. The Jews were looking for and believed a Messiah would someday come to the Jewish People. The details of the Mystery of the Gospel of Salvation was the WHO more than the WHAT. The Jews only thought that there would someday be a Messiah; but when, who and how? As the Apostle Peter wrote in: **(1 Peter 1.10-11)** *10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.* The Jews never expected this Unity Mystery, for Jew and Gentile. To the Jew this was **almost** as much of a shock as a Crucified Messiah King. The Gentiles are now **by the Cross of Jesus** heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus, as in **(Ephesians 3.6)**. Thus the unclean race, Gentiles, are now washed in Jesus' Blood as all sinners must be, to be accepted into the Family of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!

Paul now declares that God's call on a man's life is greater than the man himself, as in

**(Ephesians 3.7)** : *I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.* And calling himself a servant is very similar to **(Ephesians 3.2/ MOUNCE)** *assuming that you have heard about the stewardship of the grace of God that was given to me for you.* My exegesis from the Greek **(Ephesians 3.2)** uses for **onoikomia**, the

synonym **management of a household**. This would be read as: *assuming that you have heard about the **Management of God's Grace** that was given to me for **the Gentiles**.*

And now in **(Ephesians 3.8)** it says, *Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles **the boundless riches of Christ**.* Or, in the **KJ21** version it reads: ***the unsearchable riches of Christ**.*

I personally remember some of the encouraging promises that Jesus gave me as I followed Him here to Japan, including **“you will get double!”** I told Jesus I am glad that “ Lord, You are bad at mathematics!” for I have received a thousand times more than I had dared to ask. I am blessed to see that one of my favorite preachers from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in England said something very similar in his devotional. That is in *MORNING & EVENING, A devotional classic for daily encouragement* by Charles Spurgeon. For the Evening of August 22 for **(Ephesians 3.8)** he wrote: “My Master has riches beyond the count of arithmetic, the measurement of reason, the dream of imagination, or the eloquence of words. They are **unsearchable....**My Lord is more ready to pardon than you to sin, more able to forgive than you to transgress.”

I expect that the Apostle Paul would say Amen to this pastor, or Bro. Spurgeon's comments. Paul knew that God's Forgiveness is TOTAL regardless of the sins or crimes committed. This applies to anyone who accepts Christ as Saviour. Maybe no one here at OIC ever murdered a fellow human being other than the sin of hate which is murder in God's eyes. But Paul, calling himself *less than the least of all the Lord's people* had knowingly witnessed and approved of the stoning to death of an innocent man, the first Christian martyr, Stephen. After his rebirth in Christ Paul showed no signs of any guilt which would be *unbelief in the face of Jesus!* But, he presents here a proper humility of what he had done. As he wrote to the Corinthian Church in **(1 Corinthians 15.9-10)** **9** *For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10* *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.* All sinners, especially murderers, have a deep appreciation of the *grace of God*, that re-birthed us all into sainthood. Though a former persecutor of the Church, Paul knew the awesome privilege to know and make known the mystery of the Gospel and the mystery of Salvation now for the first time in history to the Gentiles.

Paul also knew that it is not false pride or arrogance to state the truth when one's Ministry or Service for Jesus was effective: *his grace to me was not without effect* in **(1 Corinthians 15.10)**.

And next he further explains to the Ephesian Church his mission to the Gentiles in **(Ephesians 3.10)** *and to make plain to everyone the **administration** {or **management**} of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.* Paul obviously had great joy to see

things in the Church on Earth aimed closer to the Church in Heaven, social enemies uniting. **We can too!** For in the Revelation of Heaven to the Apostle John we see in **(Revelation 7.9/MOUNCE)** *After this I looked, and behold, a vast multitude that no one could count, people from every nation, · tribe, · cultural group, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in · their hands,* **Oh dear Christians of OIC! As an International Church we have a taste of what Paul preached or managed to the Gentiles ...yes, a foretaste of Heaven in the Holy Spirit:** *people from every nation, · tribe, · cultural group, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in · their hands, and they cried out in a loud voice, saying, · “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”* Paul was looking forward to that Day to be gathered around the Throne of God with the Beloved Church and to cry out in a loud voice: **“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”** ... We can too! **{In fact, why wait.. PLEASE LET ALL THE PEOPLE FROM THE NATIONS HERE STAND...May we all simply speak ahead to our future and cry out those words: “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!” you may be seated.}**

Now, as I mentioned in last week's Message, we find the Letter to the Ephesians is a book for Encouragement, that is expounding on *saved by Faith*, and a also a book for War. In Ephesians 6 we see God's Armor for spiritual war! Here in **(Ephesians 3.11)**, we see that, *His {God's} intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known **to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*** These rulers are spiritual beings. Paul was always encouraging Christians to be confident of their glorious future. He lived the example of what he preached and taught as in **(Philippians 4.4)** *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!* But Paul also made clear the Christian's role as a soldier of Christ, as in **(2 Corinthians 2.11):** *in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

### **TAKEAWAY # 3**

**It is unwise for any soldier to enter a battle without being aware of his enemy and his tactics.**

The Lord Jesus faced Satan on Earth especially for 40 days and 40 nights of temptations, without sinning, so that he would prove His authority over Satan, and also, to fully feel with us in our battles against the Tempter. The Lord Jesus is not about to let His Sheep on Earth forget their Enemy, nor let them forget that Jesus beat him in the dessert and especially **bruised his head on the Cross.** What I have been preaching, Dear OIC, is exactly what it says here in **(Ephesians 3.11)** *His { that is God's } intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known **to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*** God gets no glory on

Earth from a Church timid about the Devil! This Bible verse says the contrary to being timid. God declares that through the Church He is making known His manifold wisdom to humiliate the ***the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*** These fallen angels have called themselves greater than God and have warred against Him under their leader, Satan. Now he calls himself greater than God's Saints. The Bible says no! We are *Sons of the Living God*, and in all our conflicts against Satan It stands written in **(Romans 8.37)** *No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us.*

Oh I wish we still had the hymnals at your seats for I would get us all up again to sing #538 *When I Can Read My Title Clear!* I am combining a few verses together:

*When I can read my title clear to mansions in the skies, I'll bid farewell to every fear and wipe my weeping eyes. Should Earth against my soul engage and fiery darts be hurled, Then I can smile at Satan's rage And face a frowning world.*

Why would fighting against the Evil One diminish our rejoicing in the Lord? Unless, we are not confident that we will win, ***more than conquerors?*** When I was about 2 years old in Jesus, I had stumbled in doubting some of my experiences with the Lord. By God's grace I kept going to every meeting with my Local Church groups as well as regular Church times. A Christian woman, also young in the Lord, shared her joyful testimony. She had been under attack by Satan. She remembered reading in **(Psalm 22.3/KJ21)**:

*But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.* As she Praised Jesus, she sensed the Devil's fleeing after tormenting her. She praised God aloud and the Enemy backed off! Her testimony brought a new attitude in my mind. I began to slowly hear the Lord saying to me that **“the honeymoon period is over Bruce, as for My Bride the Church . You must learn to be My soldier. Soldiers learn to fight!”**

#### **TAKEAWAY # 4**

#### **There is little joy for Victories, if there are no battles!**

Some beloved saints think I spend too much time on the Enemy. My job is to teach all of you to learn to fight as soldiers who give honor, not shame to their Victorious Jesus. God's intent is for the Church to boldly defy Jesus' enemies ***in the heavenly realms.*** Japan is about 0.5-1.0% Christians. If any Christians in any nation in the world should, from their love of their own nation, want to fight the Devil and his messengers, it should be Japanese Christians. We fight not just for our own obedience to Jesus, but for the deliverance of the 99% in Japan in chains to Satan. We shrink back from Battling the Devil as taught in the Holy Bible because of our *unbelief* that



Jesus will keep His promise in ( **John 14.2-3**): *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.* **Confident Christians know that they know that: I {Jesus} will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.** Then Hymn # 538 words ring in their hearts: *Then I can smile at Satan's rage And face a frowning world.*

**I instruct Baptismal Candidates that in water baptism they declare they are already dead; Christ is now their only Life. This is first of all declared to our new Father, God, and to our unsaved family and friends, but also, to the Devil. We are no longer his and we are telling him so by Baptism in Jesus' Name!**

Paul continues by discussing the "Big Picture" in the Universe:

**(Ephesians 3.11-12)** *according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Letter to the Romans declares this to be the Salvation of sinners through His only Begotten Son, Jesus:

**JUSTIFICATION - the declaration by God that we are no longer guilty but we are made righteous on the basis of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness. OUR JUSTIFICATION is according to God's Plan: Before Time Began - In Time - After Time is No More, as revealed in the Bible.**

God's eternal purpose, also, as in **(Romans 3.24)** *and all {who believe in Jesus} are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* The phrase "that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." here written in **(Ephesians 3.12)** repeats Jesus' last and dying words on the Cross, *It is FINISHED! (John 19.30) When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'* With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Paul now encourages Christians' prayer life....their relationship with God through faith in Jesus in **(Ephesians 3.12)** *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.* Here we have two of the most powerful words for Jesus-followers on how *we may approach God, freedom and confidence.* God is on His Glorious Throne and we can always at anytime or anyplace, sitting, or standing, or kneeling, or falling on our face, ....***we may approach God*** with Jesus, the *Lamb* who took away **our sins** at His side, ***with freedom and confidence!***

***Let Us Pray***

## REFERENCES

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This includes when God says no. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Paul's commitment to: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God* as written in **(Romans 8.14/KJ21)**. **Paul somehow learned that being led by Holy Spirit had to be more important than the success of his strategies to evangelize the world.** Once he was free to know that the Spirit of Jesus agreed with his plan...**Then he became very BOLD!** He also then felt free to use his **planned strategies within the sphere of obedience.** He always aimed to evangelize and plant churches in major cities. This is the meaning of being a **Manager of God's Grace first, and then, as that Grace applied to the Household of God...The Church.**

## **TAKEAWAY # 2**

**Paul somehow learned that being led by Holy Spirit had to be more important than the success of his strategies to evangelize the world.** Dear OIC Christians, I pray this for you too! **This is the Rock of Confidence as you go forward walking to Glory with Jesus.**

The New Testament history records some groups in churches who questioned Paul's authority to correct their behaviour. We see this clearly in Paul's Second Letter to the Church at Corinth. Paul had planted or, that is, had begun, the Corinthian Church as we see in **(Acts 18.11)** *So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.* Yet some time later, we find in **(2 Corinthians 10.1-5)** that Paul must approach this church with: *By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you – I, Paul, who am 'timid' when face to face with you, but 'bold' towards you when away! 2 I beg you that when I come I may not **have to be as bold as I expect to be towards some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.*** Here Paul was dealing with Christians who did not see the true picture of the power that God gave to Paul as an anointed Spirit Filled Apostle after having been their first Pastor. These Jesus-followers are insensitive to Paul's affecting the spirit world : **God for them, and devils opposing them,** as they only seemed to have eyes for worldly things, and thus accused him of being worldly!

Now, what is the **Mystery?** Paul first reminds the Ephesians of Jesus' personal communications with him in, **(Ephesians 3.3-5)** *3 that is, the mystery made known to me **by revelation,** as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was **not made known** to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*

Paul is going slowly here in order to let these Gentile Christians understand how important to Jesus is this mystery now made known to him **by revelation.** Paul had a singular and unique role in clearing away the *Mystery* by his knowledge hidden to them. Paul is attempting to teach them to be able to understand *my {Paul's} insight into the mystery of Christ* in **(Ephesians 3.4).** Paul knew

the Older Testament Prophets told of this Unity of Jew and Gentile. Possibly the few Jews who really listened to their own prophets may have thought the following words by Isaiah were only poetic or allegorical and not literal.

To the prophet Isaiah, in **(Isaiah 49.6)**, God said,

*'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'*

### **A Mystery?**

As revealed In **(Ephesians 3.6)**: *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

### **TWO MYSTERIES: Salvation & Unity of Jew & Gentile**

Paul is not speaking here in this section of Ephesians of the **Mystery of Salvation**, and thus The Gospel. The Jews were looking for and believed a Messiah would someday come to the Jewish People. The details of the Mystery of the Gospel of Salvation was the WHO more than the WHAT. The Jews only thought that there would someday be a Messiah; but when, who and how? As the Apostle Peter wrote in: **(1 Peter 1.10-11)** *10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.* The Jews never expected this Unity Mystery, for Jew and Gentile. To the Jew this was **almost** as much of a shock as a Crucified Messiah King. The Gentiles are now **by the Cross of Jesus** heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus, as in **(Ephesians 3.6)**. Thus the unclean race, Gentiles, are now washed in Jesus' Blood as all sinners must be, to be accepted into the Family of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!

Paul now declares that God's call on a man's life is greater than the man himself, as in

**(Ephesians 3.7)** : *I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.* And calling himself *a servant* is very similar to **(Ephesians 3.2/ MOUNCE)** *assuming that you have heard about the stewardship of the grace of God that was given to me for you.* My exegesis from the Greek **(Ephesians 3.2)** uses for **onoikomia**, the

synonym **management of a household**. This would be read as: *assuming that you have heard about the **Management of God's Grace** that was given to me for **the Gentiles**.*

And now in **(Ephesians 3.8)** it says, *Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles **the boundless riches of Christ**.* Or, in the **KJ21** version it reads: ***the unsearchable riches of Christ**.*

I personally remember some of the encouraging promises that Jesus gave me as I followed Him here to Japan, including **“you will get double!”** I told Jesus I am glad that “ Lord, You are bad at mathematics!” for I have received a thousand times more than I had dared to ask. I am blessed to see that one of my favorite preachers from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in England said something very similar in his devotional. That is in *MORNING & EVENING, A devotional classic for daily encouragement* by Charles Spurgeon. For the Evening of August 22 for **(Ephesians 3.8)** he wrote: “My Master has riches beyond the count of arithmetic, the measurement of reason, the dream of imagination, or the eloquence of words. They are **unsearchable....**My Lord is more ready to pardon than you to sin, more able to forgive than you to transgress.”

I expect that the Apostle Paul would say Amen to this pastor, or Bro. Spurgeon's comments. Paul knew that God's Forgiveness is TOTAL regardless of the sins or crimes committed. This applies to anyone who accepts Christ as Saviour. Maybe no one here at OIC ever murdered a fellow human being other than the sin of hate which is murder in God's eyes. But Paul, calling himself *less than the least of all the Lord's people* had knowingly witnessed and approved of the stoning to death of an innocent man, the first Christian martyr, Stephen. After his rebirth in Christ Paul showed no signs of any guilt which would be *unbelief in the face of Jesus!* But, he presents here a proper humility of what he had done. As he wrote to the Corinthian Church in **(1 Corinthians 15.9-10)** **9** *For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10* *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.* All sinners, especially murderers, have a deep appreciation of the *grace of God*, that re-birthed us all into sainthood. Though a former persecutor of the Church, Paul knew the awesome privilege to know and make known the mystery of the Gospel and the mystery of Salvation now for the first time in history to the Gentiles.

Paul also knew that it is not false pride or arrogance to state the truth when one's Ministry or Service for Jesus was effective: *his grace to me was not without effect* in **(1 Corinthians 15.10)**.

And next he further explains to the Ephesian Church his mission to the Gentiles in **(Ephesians 3.10)** *and to make plain to everyone the **administration** {or **management**} of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.* Paul obviously had great joy to see



things in the Church on Earth aimed closer to the Church in Heaven, social enemies uniting. **We can too!** For in the Revelation of Heaven to the Apostle John we see in **(Revelation 7.9/MOUNCE)** *After this I looked, and behold, a vast multitude that no one could count, people from every nation, · tribe, · cultural group, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in · their hands,* **Oh dear Christians of OIC! As an International Church we have a taste of what Paul preached or managed to the Gentiles ...yes, a foretaste of Heaven in the Holy Spirit:** *people from every nation, · tribe, · cultural group, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in · their hands, and they cried out in a loud voice, saying, · “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”* Paul was looking forward to that Day to be gathered around the Throne of God with the Beloved Church and to cry out in a loud voice: **“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”** ... We can too! **{In fact, why wait.. PLEASE LET ALL THE PEOPLE FROM THE NATIONS HERE STAND...May we all simply speak ahead to our future and cry out those words: “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!” you may be seated.}**

Now, as I mentioned in last week's Message, we find the Letter to the Ephesians is a book for Encouragement, that is expounding on *saved by Faith*, and a also a book for War. In Ephesians 6 we see God's Armor for spiritual war! Here in **(Ephesians 3.11)**, we see that, *His {God's} intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known **to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*** These rulers are spiritual beings. Paul was always encouraging Christians to be confident of their glorious future. He lived the example of what he preached and taught as in **(Philippians 4.4)** *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!* But Paul also made clear the Christian's role as a soldier of Christ, as in **(2 Corinthians 2.11):** *in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

### **TAKEAWAY # 3**

**It is unwise for any soldier to enter a battle without being aware of his enemy and his tactics.**

The Lord Jesus faced Satan on Earth especially for 40 days and 40 nights of temptations, without sinning, so that he would prove His authority over Satan, and also, to fully feel with us in our battles against the Tempter. The Lord Jesus is not about to let His Sheep on Earth forget their Enemy, nor let them forget that Jesus beat him in the dessert and especially **bruised his head on the Cross.** What I have been preaching, Dear OIC, is exactly what it says here in **(Ephesians 3.11)** *His { that is God's } intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known **to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*** God gets no glory on

Earth from a Church timid about the Devil! This Bible verse says the contrary to being timid. God declares that through the Church He is making known His manifold wisdom to humiliate the ***the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms***. These fallen angels have called themselves greater than God and have warred against Him under their leader, Satan. Now he calls himself greater than God's Saints. The Bible says no! We are *Sons of the Living God*, and in all our conflicts against Satan It stands written in **(Romans 8.37)** *No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us.*

Oh I wish we still had the hymnals at your seats for I would get us all up again to sing #538 *When I Can Read My Title Clear!* I am combining a few verses together:

*When I can read my title clear to mansions in the skies, I'll bid farewell to every fear and wipe my weeping eyes. Should Earth against my soul engage and fiery darts be hurled, Then I can smile at Satan's rage And face a frowning world.*

Why would fighting against the Evil One diminish our rejoicing in the Lord? Unless, we are not confident that we will win, ***more than conquerors?*** When I was about 2 years old in Jesus, I had stumbled in doubting some of my experiences with the Lord. By God's grace I kept going to every meeting with my Local Church groups as well as regular Church times. A Christian woman, also young in the Lord, shared her joyful testimony. She had been under attack by Satan. She remembered reading in **(Psalm 22.3/KJ21)**:

*But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.* As she Praised Jesus, she sensed the Devil's fleeing after tormenting her. She praised God aloud and the Enemy backed off! Her testimony brought a new attitude in my mind. I began to slowly hear the Lord saying to me that **“the honeymoon period is over Bruce, as for My Bride the Church . You must learn to be My soldier. Soldiers learn to fight!”**

#### **TAKEAWAY # 4**

#### **There is little joy for Victories, if there are no battles!**

Some beloved saints think I spend too much time on the Enemy. My job is to teach all of you to learn to fight as soldiers who give honor, not shame to their Victorious Jesus. God's intent is for the Church to boldly defy Jesus' enemies ***in the heavenly realms***. Japan is about 0.5-1.0% Christians. If any Christians in any nation in the world should, from their love of their own nation, want to fight the Devil and his messengers, it should be Japanese Christians. We fight not just for our own obedience to Jesus, but for the deliverance of the 99% in Japan in chains to Satan. We shrink back from Battling the Devil as taught in the Holy Bible because of our *unbelief* that

Jesus will keep His promise in ( **John 14.2-3**): *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.* **Confident Christians know that they know that: I {Jesus} will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.** Then Hymn # 538 words ring in their hearts: *Then I can smile at Satan's rage And face a frowning world.*

**I instruct Baptismal Candidates that in water baptism they declare they are already dead; Christ is now their only Life. This is first of all declared to our new Father, God, and to our unsaved family and friends, but also, to the Devil. We are no longer his and we are telling him so by Baptism in Jesus' Name!**

Paul continues by discussing the "Big Picture" in the Universe:

**(Ephesians 3.11-12)** *according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Letter to the Romans declares this to be the Salvation of sinners through His only Begotten Son, Jesus:

**JUSTIFICATION - the declaration by God that we are no longer guilty but we are made righteous on the basis of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness. OUR JUSTIFICATION is according to God's Plan: Before Time Began - In Time - After Time is No More, as revealed in the Bible.**

God's eternal purpose, also, as in **(Romans 3.24)** *and all {who believe in Jesus} are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* The phrase "that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." here written in **(Ephesians 3.12)** repeats Jesus' last and dying words on the Cross, *It is FINISHED! (John 19.30) When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'* With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Paul now encourages Christians' prayer life....their relationship with God through faith in Jesus in **(Ephesians 3.12)** *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.* Here we have two of the most powerful words for Jesus-followers on how *we may approach God, freedom and confidence.* God is on His Glorious Throne and we can always at anytime or anyplace, sitting, or standing, or kneeling, or falling on our face, ....*we may approach God* with Jesus, the *Lamb* who took away **our sins** at His side, ***with freedom and confidence!***

***Let Us Pray***

## REFERENCES

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