

GOD'S WISDOM IMPARTED BY THE CHURCH (BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENCE THROUGH FAITH)

By Albert Dickson

INTRODUCTION:

This chapter is about God's economy or arrangement by which He is to save both Jew and Gentile as expressed in chapter 2. It answers several questions. Who or what is the source of this economy or arrangement? How can one become apart of this arrangement or economy? What is the purpose of this economy or arrangement? And, since the blessings are spiritual, can it be understood?

Paul assures the audience that this economy or arrangement is not his but that he was entrusted with it to preach. He does not have the authority to change it nor did he. It is God's plan or arrangement to which he himself must submit. In fact, it is greater than his situation or life. In this stewardship, the manifold wisdom of God is expressed and it dispenses boldness and confident access to the Creator.

I. THE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GRACE. (3:1-5)

A. Defining Stewardship

1. Steward – "In a ship of war, an officer who is appointed by the purser to distribute provisions to the officers and crew. In other ships, a man who superintends the provisions and liquors, and supplies the table."
(Webster)
One entrusted with responsibilities – Luke 12:42-43; 1 Cor. 4:1-2
3. Stewardship – the office, the arrangement and or the provisions of the steward.
4. The stewardship is about the arrangement, plan, order and provisions of God's grace. Eph 4:11-14; Col. 1:25-27

B. Defining Grace

1. "A favor done..., a kindness granted; particularly that which causes joy." (TCWS Dictionary)
2. "Favor; gracious care or help, goodwill; that which one grants to another, the action of one who volunteers to do something to which he is not bound."
3. Titus 2:11-14; Eph. 1:6; Rom. 3:23-26. (Example: piñata game)

C. Revelation of God's Grace

1. God's grace was a mystery. Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:26-27
2. God's Grace made known. Eph 3:3-5; 1 Cor. 2:10-13.
3. God's Grace can be understood. Eph. 3:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

II. THE CONTENT OF THE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GRACE. (3:6)**A. Gentile Condition Prior to God's Grace**

1. Dead in trespasses and sin. Eph 2:1-2; 4:17-18
2. Uncircumcised and excluded from the commonwealth of Israel. Eph. 2:12; Gen. 17:11-14
3. This was also the Jewish condition. Rom. 11:11-20

B. Gentile Condition after God's Grace

1. God's Grace is conditional. Eph. 2:8
2. Fellow heirs. Eph. 1:5, 11; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 11
3. Fellow members of the body. Eph. 3:14-15
4. Fellow partakers of the promise. Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:15-18, 29

III. THE GRACE OF GOD AND PAUL. (3:7-13)**A. The Grace of God was given to him by God's power.**

1. Paul's call to be an apostle. Eph. 3:7; Acts 9:3-16
2. How. Gal. 1:11-17

B. Purpose of Being Given God's Grace

1. To preach to the Gentiles. Eph. 3:8
2. To bring to light what is the administration of the mystery. Eph 3:2, 9; Luke 16:1-2
3. For God's manifold wisdom might be made known through the church to rulers and authorities in the heavenly. Eph. 3:10; Rom. 3:21-30; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 10:1-8; 1 Peter 2:9-10
4. To provoke to jealousy the Jews. Rom. 10:18-19; 11:13-16

C. Superiority of God's Grace

1. Greater than Paul. Eph. 3:13; Gal. 1:6-8
2. Greater than the spiritual host.
3. Greater than man. 1 Cor. 2:1-4; 3:4-11

APPLICATION:

- A. The Grace of God was revealed in such a way that it can be understood when we give diligence to read it.**
- B. God's Grace is to be trusted.**
- C. True trust in God's Grace is demonstrated when we proclaim it as the only way for man to be saved.**
- D. God's Grace is greater than anyone of us.**