

## -THE CONTEXT-

We look into the heavens and behold the handiwork of God. All is in order. There is no confusion. Our clocks can be set and time can be accurately measured by the regular movements of heavenly bodies. Our sun has its planets, each in its own place. Many of the planets have satellites or moons. The earth has one. Some others have several.

We look into things of earth, such as rocks, minerals, and all the elements. All is in order. Each has its peculiar characteristics. Each has its crystal form. The snow flake has a set form, but so varied that no two can be found alike. As we further examine these elements we find that they are made up of particles which resemble the sun and its planets. There is a pattern. There is order.

We look into the living things. We find a common material, protoplasm, as the basis of life in all living material. But each species has its own particular pattern and characteristics. Again all is in order. There is no confusion.

We look into the Bible, the Word of God. We find there the same kind of order and pattern. Certain words or subjects have their particular satellites. They are not mixed, even if men do try to get them mixed. The word REPENT is a moon to the planet KINGDOM. It is not found with any other subject. Words recur at regular intervals and a significant number of times. But we must never lose sight of the context with any of them. Recently we studied the 6 occurrences of the word MYSTERY in Eph. Just the pattern or structure of their occurrences gives light on the meaning.

When you find order and perfection, you may be sure that the hand of God was in it. When you find disorder and confusion, then, you may know that Satan has had something to do with it.

Each word, each subject, each doctrine and practice must be kept in its proper orbit and studied there.

## -SUGGESTIVE OUTLINES-

- I. A pillar and ground of the truth, and without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was
  1. Manifest in the flesh,
  2. Justified in the Spirit,
  3. Seen of angels,
  4. Preached unto the Gentiles,
  5. Believed on in the world,
  6. Received up into glory.

I. Take unto you the whole armour of God:

1. Loins girt about with truth.
2. Breastplate of righteousness.
3. Feet shod...gospel of peace.
4. Shield of faith.
5. Helmet of salvation.
6. Sword of the Spirit.

I. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him:

- The Spirit of 1. Wisdom,  
2. and understanding,
- The Spirit of 3. Counsel,  
4. and might,
- The Spirit of 5. Knowledge,  
6. and the fear of the Lord.

1. Hallowed be Thy Name
2. Kingdom come
3. Will be done
4. Give daily bread
5. Forgive debts
6. Lead not into temptation
7. Deliver from evil

In the first 3 outlines above we have a topic and 6 sub-topics. One is the number of unity and refers to God. Six is the number of man and refers to human aspect of Christ in each instance, or His help to us. Each is made up of 7, Godly perfection.

The last outline is different. It has 7 petitions, 3 Godward and 4 earthward.

As you read and study the Word, look for such series of words and see if you can make an outline. Such outlines help us to appreciate and remember truth better. It sometimes gives us a key to the meaning. Such perfect order is one sure proof of authorship.

-US IN EPHESIANS 1-

Seven times in this chapter we find the word US in connection with a work of God for us. The term refers to the Jews and Gentiles who have been reconciled in one body. Directly, it refers to Paul and the saints and faithful to whom the epistle was addressed. It includes me, and I hope you also include yourself in the same group.

1. Verse 3; HE BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. The place is heavenly places. The blessings can come only to those in Christ Jesus. The these spiritual blessings may seem far away, yet the possession of them makes possible the real enjoyment of temporal blessings and life here and now.

2. Verse 4; HE CHOSE US. This choosing took place before the overthrow of the world. It is a choosing prior to any other. Those of the Kingdom were chosen since the overthrow. The purpose in this choosing was that he might have a body of believers upon whom to lavish His love. But they must be holy and without blame, a condition which He will accomplish for us if we exercise faith toward Him.

3. Verse 5; HE PREDESTINATED US. Every one who becomes a member of this special group is predestined to adoption as children. God did at one time choose Israel to be His children and He said He would be their God. They had an adoption, too, but it was when they became of age. When a Roman adopted a child, its position was secure and its inheritance certain. It could never be cast out, tho the children born in the household might be disowned and disinherited. This new position is made possible by Christ only. This position can never be earned or deserved in any way. God acts this way just because it pleases Him to do so.

4. Verse 6; HE MADE US ACCEPTED. It pleases God to act in grace. It adds to His glory when He does act in grace. Not only men, but the heavenly hosts will praise Him for His wonderful grace. It is by this grace that He has made us accepted in the Beloved. Not by our own righteousness are we acceptable,

but by the righteousness of our Lord. We must put on His righteousness in order to be acceptable.

5. Verse 8; HE CAUSED THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE TO ABOUND TOWARD US. It might seem a little hard for us to understand how that God in wisdom and prudence should make His riches abound toward us. But it was thru these same riches of grace that redeeming blood was shed in which also was included the forgiveness of sins. In His wisdom He has made a way to accomplish His purpose. In His prudence He has worked out the details. In it all He has been able both to be just and to be gracious. Certainly His ways are not our ways, and His thots not our thots.

6. Verse 9; HE MADE KNOWN THE MYSTERY TO US. Not only was it His will that we should be holy and blameless, but to make better known His will, He has revealed a secret to us. He has done this just because it came to His mind and it pleased Him to do it. Here He reveals a purpose to gather all things together and make them one in His beloved Son. This will include all things in heaven and all things on earth. Of course we understand that these are the things of God and does not include the things which are to pass away. This great unity can be accomplished only thru Christ. Only thru Christ have we any inheritance, but in Him is our inheritance secure, being so predestinated. There is no predestination outside of Christ. God in His wisdom has His plans all made to accomplish His will. There will be no failure. All will work out according to the counsel of His will.

7. Verse 19; HE MADE HIS POWER AVAILABLE TO US. In order that we might be to the praise of His glory and that His plans in us might not fail, He has given us the great and mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. The great power that raised our Lord from the dead, and set Him in heavenly places as Head over all things to the church which is His body, is upon all who have believed and are sealed with the Spirit of promise.

### -OUR SPHERE OF BLESSING-

As we read thru the Old Testament we do not find that any had a hope of GOING TO HEAVEN. The theme of the prophets was resurrection to a kingdom here on the earth. The glories of the Millennial Jerusalem with the coming Messiah to reign there fills page after page.

As we go into the New Testament we find the same theme thruout the gospels and Acts, including the epistles written during Acts. At the end of the Revelation the theme still is "Surely I come quickly."

But when we come to the epistles written after the time of Acts is over, we find a different hope set forth. No longer do we read of the coming kingdom here on the earth, but the scene is shifted to heavenly places. Acts 28:28 is the dividing point.

In the first epistle written after Acts, we find right at the first of it that now blessings to be bestowed are in heavenly places. (Eph. 1:3). Instead of Christ being resurrected to take the throne of his father, David, we find Him set above all principality and power in heavenly places. There, in that place, He is head over all things to the church. (Eph. 1:20-23).

Not only was Christ raised up to a position far above all, but His own are also raised with Him and made to sit with Him in that sphere in the heavenlies. (Eph. 2:5,6). It is in this place that the church is to be a display sample to all the principalities and powers so that they might learn the manifold wisdom of God.

Israel had her warfare with the Canaanites in the land. For Israel in the future, the Lord will destroy her enemies in the earth. He will rule the nations with a rod of iron. But our warfare is in the heavenlies with spiritual wickedness. Eph. 6:12.

Paul told the Philippians that their citizenship was in heaven, and that it would be from a place in heaven that they would look for the Savior to appear. They were not looking for His coming here on the earth. (Phil. 3:20). This is certainly different from the ex-

pectation of the Corinthians and Thessalonians. (1 Cor. 15 and 1 Thess. 4). They expected Christ to come back to the earth where they would be waiting for Him.

At present Christ is hid in God in the heavenlies. He is not yet manifested to the hosts of the heavens. Our life is hid with Him in God also. When He shall appear in His glory, that is, be made manifest to all the principalities and powers, we of this dispensation will appear with Him in His glory. (Col. 3:4). Having such a heavenly calling, let us mortify our members here on the earth. (Col. 3:5).

Those quickened will be judged at His appearing or EPIPHANEIA. (2 Tim. 4:1). Now this appearing is not the parousia where He appears in the clouds when He returns to the earth. Neither is it the apokalypsis or His revelation when He comes to the earth. The Epiphaneia is His shining forth in heavenly places. If we are to gain a crown of righteousness (a reward) we must love His appearing. (1 Tim. 4:8).

Since He first will be made manifest in the heavenlies before He begins His journey earthward, it then surely follows that those who have an appearing in that place with Him must have an earlier resurrection.

Then as He journeys earthward, there will be a meeting in the air with a special group of saints, such as the Corinthians and the Thessalonians. Later He will come on down to the earth and will raise the dry bones of Israel and set up the Millennial kingdom. Here then are at least 3 resurrections for three distinct groups. After the Millennium will be another resurrection. It will be of those who have life, but no special calling or hope. Job and the dying malefactor will be among this group. It will consist mainly of the nations before Abraham and saved Gentiles from Abraham till Acts 10. It will also probably consist of all since Acts 28:28 who have life but never received the revelation of the MYSTERY.

Search the Scriptures to see if these things be so. Make sure of your own hope and calling.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

There are three divisions of the TRUTH FOR TODAY ministry. The first is the monthly paper. It is free. Its purpose is to reach out with the revelation of the MYSTERY where folks cannot come to class or hear the radio lessons. The second is the radio class each Tuesday at 7 P.M. over station WRSW FM. Tune to 107.3 on the FM dial. The third is the weekly Bible class which meets at my home each Tuesday at 7:45 P.M. That gives me a half hour to get home after the broadcast.

Well, I certainly thought that no one was going to answer the questions in No. 19, but a few days ago I got a set of answers. They were from a man 89 years old. He did a good job of answering the questions. Now what about you young folks? The reason he was a little slow was that the paper had to travel many thousands of miles to get to him.

I did not think last month, when I told about my equipment, that somebody would try to help with it. But I got the offer of a later model Mimeograph than the one I now use. Let us sing the doxology right here.

The mail is increasing in volume and I have to work to keep up with it. The foreign letters keep coming in. I am glad for them. I would suggest that all of you in other countries let me know if you are receiving the paper. I have no

way of finding out if it is not delivered to you like I can here in the United States.

Receipts for March are: A37 \$5., A38 \$5., A39 \$9.48., A40 \$10., A41 \$1., A42 \$1., A43 \$1., A44 \$2. We are grateful for these, especially at this time when the going was a little tough. Thanks to those, whoever they are, who sent gifts with no name. Also thanks to those in Scotland and Australia who have lent a helping hand.

We have had four new arrivals on the farm since last issue. They are 4 little white kids, 2 sets of twins, pure-bred Saanens. They are very entertaining with their antics.

If you know any people who might be interested in reading this little paper, send in their names and full addresses.

Have a complete stock of current publications by C. H. Welch. This is for the convenience of our friends and not to make money.

In reply to some inquiries, I would suggest that those in Great Britain who wish to make gifts to this ministry send them to my account with the Lamp Press, 6, Old Town, Clapham, London, S.W.4.

I am very thankful for the good service and cooperation I get from the radio station, WRSW. They have been most kind and considerate at all time.

We have our problems, too, and Satan tries in every way to hinder. Do not forget to pray for us.

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