

God's Secrets

Ephesians 1:8-10

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

I am afraid that often we do not think of how special we as Christians are in this world.

In many ways we are the same as everyone else. Working to make a living and to raise our family and get our bills paid. Struggling with sickness and disappointments. Getting the kids to mind and fighting off old age.

And then when we do think of our blessings we often think of the material things that we have. But what if we lived in a third world country? How would we make it then?

The greatest blessings that God has given us are spiritual not material. And Paul continues the list for us this morning of some that are not as obvious and others.

I. In all Wisdom and Prudence v-8

- A. Wisdom is what the world lacks.
- B. Wisdom is what our world needs today.
- C. Wisdom is what God gives to His children.
- D. Prudence is a strange word.
 - 1. Some would simply translate it wisdom but that is not quite it.
 - 2. It is 5428. φρονησις phronesis fron'-ay-sis; from 5426; mental action or activity, i.e. intellectual or moral insight: — prudence, wisdom.
 - 3. The idea is having the ability to see the situation as it really is when others cannot.
 - 4. That is why the world thinks we are weird, because we see our situation much different than they do.

II. The mystery of His will v-9

- A. God's will is a mystery by virtue of the fact that only He know His will and those who He has let in on the secret.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 1Co 2:7, 10-12; 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our

glory, 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

B. What is a mystery?

1. Here the idea is that God has hidden things in the past but has revealed them in the day of grace.
2. It not something that God will not reveal, but something that He has revealed.
3. But He has revealed it to only a few.
4. Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

C. But what does this relate to?

1. It relates to the gospel, that to most is nothing but foolishness.
2. 1Co 1:22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
3. God's great plan to bring the Jews and Gentiles the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. That God would save people through the merits of Jesus Christ is the good news that we have accepted.
5. But the world cannot receive it.
 - a. Mr 4:10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,
 - b. Mt 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

III. According to His good pleasure that He purposed in Himself v-9

- A. Mt 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent

and have revealed them to babes.

1. The wise and prudent of this world cannot perceive the spiritual truths of God.
2. John 6: 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.
3. Satan blinds the eyes until God opens their eyes.

IV. The culmination of all things v-10

- A. This world is not what God intended.
- B. Even the creation itself is held hostage to the fall of man and longs for the redemption that will redeem the whole of creation.
- C. Someday God will finish what He has begun and will bring everything to completeness.
- D. Then the world will be as God designed.
- E. 1 Corinthians 15: 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Col 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

Col 4:3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

Ephesians 1:8 (NKJV) 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Eph_1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Eph_3:3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

Eph_6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Ro 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Isaiah 2:2-4 (NKJV) 2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 11:1-11 (NKJV) 1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. 10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." 11 It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea.