

ROBERTSVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

May 2, 2021

Thank you for being a part of our service today. We trust that you will receive a blessing from being with us and hearing a message from the Word of God. May the Lord bless you as you serve Him.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE (Please use this time to quietly prepare your heart for worship)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #63 All Creatures of Our God and King

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 2:7-14

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #540 My Hope Is in the Lord

HYMN #320 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN #349 O How He Loves You and Me

BIBLE MESSAGE Pastor Ernie Brodie, Jr.

HYMN #480 Only Trust Him

CLOSING PRAYER

Announcement

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting

1 John 2:12-14: I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

The Mystery of the Church - Ephesians 3:1-13 Rev. Dr. Ernest Brodie Jr.

In the Old Testament, the church was a mystery, The mystery of the church is not mysterious for us, because we have the New Testament and are living in the church age (the dispensation of grace). However, in the Old Testament the church was concealed.

The unveiling of the the mystery of the church. (Ephesians 3:1-2)

Paul was a prisoner (verse 1) not because he was an evil man but because he preached the Word of God and salvation by grace to the Gentiles. Paul endured three separate imprisonments for a total of five years. Ephesians 3:2 mentions the dispensation of the grace of God. A dispensation is a stewardship or responsibility given to a particular group of people for a specific period of time. During the church age and the tribulation period, the dispensation is the dispensation of grace.

The hidden nature of the mystery of the church. (Ephesians 3:3-6)

Before the dispensation of grace, God's plan for the church age was unknown. Much about the new covenant was also unknown before the earthly ministry of Christ. By revelation, this mystery was made known to Paul (verses 3-5a).

The church age was hinted at by the prophets of old (Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 60:1-3) and was revealed by the apostles (Ephesians 3:5b). Salvation of the Gentiles meant that they were now fellow heirs with the Jewish believers (Ephesians 3:6). They were adopted and grafted into God's family. The church is one body (Ephesians 5:30-32). Spiritual promises were extended to include the Gentile believers in the church age.

The ministry of the mystery of the church. (Ephesians 3:7-13)

- A minister must minister by grace (verse 7).
- A minister must minister as a servant (verse 8). Paul thought of himself as "least of all saints." The ministry suffers when the minister loses sight of his role as a servant. Ministry is about serving the Savior.
- A minister must remain in awe of the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (verse 8). The ministry suffers when the minister loses sight of salvation's greatness and the unsearchable riches given to us in Christ.
- A minister must be tenacious (verse 9). When we easily surrender to the hardships and sorrows of life, the ministry and the minister's effectiveness suffers. People are watching. Giving up robs God of the victory and glory. Satan becomes the victor.

The results of the mystery of the church unveiled. (Ephesians 3:10-13)

One result is the amazement of the angels or "principalities and powers" (verse 10). Another result of the mystery of the church is a believer will glorify God (verse 11). This is Paul's ultimate goal. His secondary goal is the salvation of sinners (verse 12). The encouragement of the saints is his third goal (verse 13).

No matter the ups and downs of life, we can have confidence in God (Romans 8:18). Find strength in Christ and give Him the glory.