

Heaven & Earth #2

“The Mystery of the Gospel”

Ephesians 1:9-10 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.

A. All things that are created in heaven and on earth have been created by, through, and for Jesus Christ! It is the pleasure of the Father that in Him (Christ) all the fullness should dwell and that all things in heaven and on earth should be reconciled by Him (Christ). In the consummation of all things Jesus will in turn render all back to the Father as all things have always been rightly destined to be. From creation to consummation it is all about Jesus Christ!

1. Creation:

Colossians 1:16-20 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Hebrews 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

2. Consummation:

Ephesians 1:9-10 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.

1 Corinthians 15:28 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.

B. Paul speaks here in our central passage of the mystery of the Father's will which He has purposed in Himself to accomplish and which is His good pleasure to perfectly perform. This supreme mystery is described as the bringing together of all things (lit. to sum up into the main point) in Christ both in heaven and on earth.

Ephesians 1:9-10 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.

C. The term mystery is used six times in the letter to the Ephesians by Paul and is fundamental to understanding the complete nature of the gospel and the nature of the mysteries within the mystery.

Ephesians 1:9-10 ...the **mystery of His will**... gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.

Ephesians 3:3-4 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**),

Ephesians 3:9-11 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; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great **mystery**, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**.

Ephesians 6:19 ...that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the **mystery of the gospel**,

1. The Mystery of His will; The Mystery; The Mystery of Christ!

Ephesians 1:9-10 ...the **mystery of His will**... gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.

***Ephesians 3:3-4** 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**),*

2. The Fellowship of the Mystery!

***Ephesians 3:9-11** 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; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

1 Corinthians 2:7-12** But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for **our glory**, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man **the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**" 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.

3. The Mystery of Christ and His Church!

***Ephesians 5:30-32** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*