

The Iron Men of Fellowship of Champions

Colossians 1:25-27

Lesson 11

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24-Jun-2023

Opening Prayer

*** Start Recorder ***

Colossians 1:25 (NOTES)

- “Of this Church I was made a minister” - Paul was called, appointed, and commissioned directly by Christ, and specifically to be Christ’s Apostle to the Gentile Church. Acts 26:14-18, Ga 2:8-9, 1Ti 2:7
 - Ga 2:8 (for He who was at work for Peter in [his] apostleship to the circumcised was at work for me also to the Gentiles), Ga 2:9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we [might] [go] to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.
 - 1Ti 2:7 For this I was appointed as a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
- “stewardship” - (Gr. - oikonomia) translated as “dispensation” in the KJV, and “commission” in the NASB20/NIV. Same root as the English word, “economy.” Equivalent words are “plan,” “administration,” “management,” etc. Paul is in essence saying, “God called me to preach His Word to win you Gentiles to Christ, and it’s His plan. So, stop following after the false teaching of these Gnostics.”
- Paul’s ministry was the bringing of the Gospel to the Gentiles. This was done through preaching, teaching, counseling, discipling, and writing, the sum of which is the “The Ministry of the Word.” Ac 6:4, 20:27
 - Ac 6:4 “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
 - Ac 20:27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”

Colossians 1:26 (NOTES)

- “mystery ... hidden from the past ages and generations” - Christ began the revelation of this mystery in parables, and its revelation was completed by Paul in his declaration of the mysterion. Matt 13:34-35
 - Mt 13:34 Also these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. Mt 13:35 [This was] to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ‘I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.’
- “Mystery” (Gr. - mysterion) referred to a secret in the sense of one that could only be known by divine revelation. Even though it was described and explained plainly in the OT Scriptures, it still required the lifting of a veil for it to be seen. One could not discern it on one’s own wits. It could not be discerned any other way.
- What is this mystery? That God’s plan for the redemption of mankind included not only the Jews, but the entire Gentile world. Matt 13:44-50, Eph 3:1-8
 - Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — Eph 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the administration [oikonomia] of God’s grace which was given to me for you; Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before briefly. Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to mankind, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; Eph 3:6 [to be specific,] that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, Eph 3:7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. Eph 3:8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.
- How was this mystery “hidden?” - It was not hidden in the sense no one could ever see it under any circumstances. It was hidden in at least two ways:

- First, the full phrase was "hidden from," meaning it was there, but man was "kept" from seeing it. It was in plain sight in the OT Scriptures, for he who has "eyes to see and ears to hear" (eyes and ears opened by supernatural revelation of the Holy Spirit (Mt 13:9-16)). But it merely hidden (veiled) from recognition. For His own purposes, God blinded men to its reality. God does not cast His pearls before swine. Profane man cannot apprehend the true meaning in the Scriptures apart from regeneration and revelation.
 - 2Co 3:12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, 13 and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. 14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. (2Co 3:12-16) Mt 13:13-16 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'You shall keep on listening, but shall not understand; And you shall keep on looking, but shall not perceive; 15 For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their heart, and return, And I would heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.
- Second, it was buried in the prophecies, imprinted in the types, demonstrated in the rituals, and exemplified in the doctrines of the OT Scriptures.
 - Ga 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, [saying,] "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." The revelation that the Gospel was preached to Abraham in Ge 12 as a part of the Abrahamic Covenant was not readily understood to be taken as literally as it should have been.
 - Ge 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

Ge 12:2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; Ge 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you [Abram] all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

- **Discussion:** How is the Gospel preached to Abraham in the Abrahamic Covenant? Christ is the means by which “All the Nations” (Gentiles) - are blessed in Abraham.
 - Ga 3:16 "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his Seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your Seed,” that is, Christ."
 - The Seed (singular) is a title of Christ. He is the Seed of Abraham. He is the Seed of the Woman (Gen 3:14-15).
 - Ge 3:14-15 Then the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all the livestock, And more than any animal of the field; On your belly you shall go, And dust you shall eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring [sinners] and her Descendant [Jesus]; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”
 - Isa 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one [in whom] My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. Isa 42:2 He will not cry out nor raise [His voice,] Nor make His voice heard in the street. Isa 42:3 A bent reed He will not break [off] And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. Isa 42:4 He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice on the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.” Isa 42:5 This is what God the LORD says, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it: Isa 42:6 “I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,

- Re 7:9 “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands”;
- Mt 12:18 “BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL DELIGHTS; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE WILL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES. Mt 12:19 HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS. Mt 12:20 A BENT REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A DIMLY BURNING WICK HE WILL NOT EXTINGUISH, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY. Mt 12:21 AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE.”
- Ac 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I HAVE APPOINTED YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’”
- Ac 15:16 ‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE FALLEN TABERNACLE OF DAVID, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT, Ac 15:17 SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,’ Ac 15:18 SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS known from long ago.
- Hidden in plain sight. It is there in the Scriptures, but the Holy Spirit must reveal it. Matt 13:9-15, 2Co 3:14, 1Co 13:12
- **Discussion:** Where else in the OT is the truth that God’s plan for the redemption of mankind is not exclusive to the Jews?
 - The typology of the Gentile bride: Abram and Sarai, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, Joseph and Asenath, Moses and Zipporah, Salmon and Rahab, Boaz and Ruth, David and Bathsheba, Christ and the church.
 - The typology of the first born losing his inheritance to his younger sibling. Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and Ruben, Ephraim and Manasseh, David and his 6 older brothers, Solomon and his older brother who died 8 days old.

Colossians 1:27 (NOTES)

- “Christ in you” - The Gentile believers at Colossae. Rom 8:9, 1Pe 1:10-11
 - Ro 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
 - 1Pe 1:10-11 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that [would come] to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.
- “Christ in you, the hope of glory”: - The hope of our glorification, that ultimate state of sinless perfection to which we will be restored (as was Adam’s original state) at the return of Christ, when we are rid of these sin-filled fleshly bodies of death and given our new glorified bodies - from the lesser glory of our having been created in the image of God, converted, and sanctified, to that greater glory when we will have fully realized the image of Christ in the completion of our restoration in Him at His Coming.
 - 2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, [there] is freedom. 2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - 1Co 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable [body,] it is raised an imperishable [body;] 1Co 15:43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 1Co 15:44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual [body.] ... 1Co 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. 1Co 15:50 Now I say this, brothers [and sisters,] that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 1Co 15:51 Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 1Co 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

Application: Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you have trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

Closing Benediction: Jude 1:24-25 *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

Closing Prayer

Small Groups

- Discuss current Scripture reading assignment.
- Prayer:
 - Anything praiseworthy.
 - Areas of accountability.
 - Other prayer requests.