

Text: Ephesians 1

Title: "Having made known to us the mystery of His will" Ephesians 1:9

## INTRODUCTION

1. The phrase "the mystery of His will"

- a) A correct phrase
- b) God's will cannot be fathomed unless it is revealed!

2. What if we do not have knowledge of His will?

- a) Darkness will prevail
- b) Destruction looms large

<sup>3</sup> Therefore my people have gone into captivity,  
Because *they have* no knowledge;  
Their honourable men *are* famished,  
And their multitude dried up with thirst.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself  
And opened its mouth beyond measure;  
Their glory and their multitude and their pomp,  
And he who is jubilant, shall descend into it.

Isaiah 5:13-14 (Hosea 4:6)

## REVELATION OF VITAL KNOWLEDGE

<sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

<sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

<sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

<sup>10</sup> 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 was sons

<sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

<sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:9-12

#### 1. God's Predestined Plan revealed

- a) The adoption as sons
- b) Our acceptance in the Beloved (The Lord Jesus)
- c) Our Redemption
  - i) Through the blood of the Lord Jesus
  - ii) Forgiveness of sins
  - iii) According to God's grace
  - iv) Abounding grace

#### 2. Basis of God's Predestined Plan

- a) "According to the good pleasure of His will" Eph 1:5
- b) "According to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself" Eph 1:9
- c) "Being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will" Eph 1:12
- d) Without revelation, Man cannot fully fathom God and His glorious plan of redemption

### **COMPREHENSION OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

<sup>9</sup> 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."

<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

1. God will reveal through the Holy Spirit
2. He will reveal His truths to those who truly love Him
3. Only the Holy Spirit knows and understands the things of God

### **HOW WOULD THE SPIRIT OF GOD TEACH US?**

<sup>13</sup> These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

<sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

<sup>16</sup> For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:13-16

1. He teaches us to compare spiritual things with spiritual
2. We need spiritual discernment
3. We need to be spiritual (as opposed to the word "carnal")

### **OUR CHALLENGE**

1. Old Truths ought to be appreciated afresh
2. New Truths ought to be sought after
3. All Truths must
  - a) Impact us
  - b) Implanted in us
  - c) Inspire us