

Declaring the divine intent of God's Wisdom

In Ephesians 3, Paul talks about the hidden mystery – this is the mystery of the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God by whose Blood all mankind is saved, redeemed and reconciled unto the Lord. Paul writes that this mystery is “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”.

It is because of this mystery that became known – God's plan of redemption and salvation – with the coming of Jesus that Paul was prepared no matter what to “preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 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”.

Now, let us read what it says in verse 10 of this chapter (Paul is speaking here about the purpose of preaching the “mystery” – thus Jesus and the Eternal Kingdom): “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, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”

The Amplified Bible version of the Scripture in Ephesians 3 reads as follows: 10 So now through the church the multifaceted wisdom of God [in all its countless aspects] might now be made known [revealing the mystery] to the [angelic] rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This is in accordance with [the terms of] the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him [that is, our faith gives us sufficient courage to freely and openly approach God through Christ].

Let us pause and consider what Paul is saying. Remember, this is a servant of God who went through all kinds of tribulations, trials, tests, suffering and persecution (2 Corinthians 11 v 16-33). He endured it all – for what purpose? Paul ran the race, persisted in his course, was poured out like a drink offering (Philippians 2:17), he did it all to bring glory to God by preaching among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery.

And the purpose, thus the INTENT, of such preaching was to declare the following determined INTENTION - the manifold wisdom of God might be made.

Manifold speaks of many and various. It speaks of the divine and multi-faceted nature of God and His Kingdom. Wisdom speaks of declaring the truth, the ways, the nature, the weightiness (thus the glory) and the manifold riches of the Lord and of His Kingdom. Paul therefore was prepared to risk it all, no matter the cost, to declare the Word and Truth of the Lord (which was once the hidden mystery of Jesus) for the purpose of declaring the intention of making God's wisdom known. Paul was therefore a man on a determined mission – declaring, preaching, pronouncing, and teaching the wisdom of God which defines the eternal Kingdom.

Was Paul's intention for self-exaltation? Was his intent self-enrichment? Was it for self-fulfilment, self-improvement, or self-glorification? Was it to declare his worth, value or importance? Was Paul preaching for the sake of building his ministry, his kingdom, or his reputation? The answer is an emphatic NO! He was preaching and enduring hardship and great obstacles for the intent to declare the manifold wisdom of God! Paul was on a mission to let the world know who God is, the Truth of

God, the Truth of the Kingdom and the Truth of His Majesty! Paul had a vision and a mission – to declare the intent of the manifold wisdom of God!

For this reason Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2: 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Glory to God! Paul was not trying to please anybody with his clever words or sermons, but he came in the power of God to declare the intent of God's wisdom, so that our faith could rest in such wisdom and not the wisdom of man! Paul was not interested in reputation, as seen in 1 Corinthians 3, verse 5-11. He writes: "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?"

Paul has one clear goal – the intended purpose of declaring God's Truth and God's Glory! Nothing else. He did not preach about self-improvement, self-fulfilment, about career choices, prosperity according to material matters or anything else that puffs up in vain, no, he spoke and declared the Gospel of the Kingdom. That was his intention and his purpose, for only the Truth of God sets free and in the wisdom of God we find our deliverance, hope and strength!

Of such glorious wisdom Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1: 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 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. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Let us continue this insight as we hear what the Lord is saying ... we then read that his declaration of the wisdom of God (which must be made by the church) is for the purpose so that it is known by the principalities and powers in the heavenly places! Let us pause again. Paul was saying that the church – thus the Bride, therefore the true believers and disciples – are supposed to be declaring the manifold wisdom of God. And to whom? TO PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

Now why did Paul say this? Let us remember what he wrote in Ephesians 6: 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

So the purpose of the intent of declaring the wisdom of God, is not only for the purpose of equipping the saints (Ephesians 4), but also to speak the Truth of God in the natural so that the Truth of God shall permeate, saturate and infiltrate the heavenly places, thus changing the spiritual atmosphere. Paul understood the importance of declaring the Truth of the Kingdom – resting in the wisdom of God – to the heavenly places BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE OUR SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE AND ALSO OUR VICTORY OR DEFEAT LIES AND RESTS!

Paul knew his struggles was not here one earth, even though he was many times beaten, or starving, or left out in the cold or imprisoned. His struggle was in the heavenly places, WHERE THE SPIRITUAL VICTORY OR DEFEAT IS DETERMINED BY LEGALITIES, and so he knew in order to fulfil the Great Commission he had to declare the manifold wisdom of God not just in his preaching to Gentile and Jew but the heavenly places itself! For Paul was a man who stood for the Truth, and so declared the Truth, spoke and pronounced the Truth, thus the intent of God's Wisdom, and by such intent and purpose he surely shook the gates of hell and brought so many to the Kingdom of God! Indeed, he would have known the words of Jesus in John 8: 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Glory to God! Of His disciples Jesus also spoke the following in Luke 8: 10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables ...

Let us understand, the real and true disciple of God will know the mystery of the Kingdom, and such a disciple will according to Matthew 6 seek the Kingdom above all else. And then such a disciple's intent and purpose will be to declare the multi-fold wisdom of God, as being the CHURCH, to all mankind but also declaring it in the heavenly places!

For we are not called to preach and teach for the intent of pleasing man, or to sooth itching ears (2 Timothy 4) or to win favour among man, but we are here to declare the great wisdom of God and His Kingdom, boldly, in truth, in Spirit and in the power of the Lord! For then, as we go forth with such an intention, such a heart and mind-set, declaring the Truth of God without compromising, always glorifying the Lord, then surely we shall again shake the gates of hell and bring the lost back to the feet of the Lord!

Such an determined intention we read in Acts 4, when the disciples were threatened with persecution: 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 who [c]by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.' 27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Here we find the disciples refusing to back down. They refused to compromise, so they prayed to the Lord with boldness, for courage and strength to keep on declaring with intention the manifold wisdom of God. And as a result the Holy Spirit moves, and there was a demonstration of God's Kingdom power – the same power as spoken by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2 and the same power would come from on high on the day of Pentecost!

Believers, why is the church so ineffective, and making no impact? Why do we no longer bear witness to the great move of the Spirit in power? It is because the church is no longer proclaiming and speaking and declaring the wisdom of God, thus Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God! Our preaching is not for the declaration of the wisdom of God, nor is to even declare such truths to the heavens, for we preach and teach for the intent of self-satisfaction, exaltation, and self-glorification. Of such matters we read in 2 Timothy 3 and chapter 4.

For such reason we are living in days of great apostasy, rebellion and iniquity, for the intent and purpose of our declarations and preaching is for self-gain, self-glorification and self-exaltation. The early disciples and apostles had no problem suffering or even dying for the sake of the Gospel; for their intent and purpose was clear – to glorify God and God alone! Their preaching and declaration was with the intent to shake the gates of hell, to set the captives free, to proclaim the Good News to the poor and to see so many snatched from hell fire in order to know the love of God. For they are the ones of whom it is written in Matthew 11:12: And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Indeed, it is time again for the men and women of God will know the Lord, know His Truth, who will lay down their crowns, their ego and their wisdom to seek and declare God's Wisdom in the might and power of the Spirit of the Lord! It is time to preach the truth of God, preach and teach His wisdom, the power of Christ and the power of the Blood! The Gospel is after all about saving the damned, the lost and for mankind to come alive again out of his slumber of sin's deadness. It is time to declare it openly and boldly so that the spiritual principalities and authorities and all mankind will know, yes know, who God is and that we live to only speak His Truth and glory to a broken world!

Amen

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