# The Mystery of the Gospel

Lesson 5, 1st Quarter July 29 – Aug. 4, 2023.

Sabbath Afternoon, July 29

## Memory Text:

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." KJV — Ephesians 3:20, 21

"The work of the gospel minister is to lead the people to Christ, to point them to the Lamb of God who takes the beginning of the world hath been hid in God." Ephesians 3:9. Every minister is to be a man of power who has laid sacrificing pact, consecrating himself with preaching, and teaching the word of God. Christ's ministers are to be men who "labors will not be appreciated in this life, but whom Christ died are pleading for work of salvation, who are personal and faithful, and who have no mistakes to calling who, entering upon the ministry, is unwilling to do the personal work that the care of the flock demands." Ellen G. White

"The spirit of the true ministerial is one of self-forgetfulness. He feels no sense of self or order that he may work the works of God. By the preaching of the word and the ministry of the word, he is to lift up Christ before the people, that they may behold the Lamb of God. Every minister with the great Burden Bearer, he shares their afflictions, bears their burdens, sympathizes with their sorrows and weep their hearts to God. In this work the minister is Christ's representative, and he is to be as much a consecrated and sanctified man as the truth which unto salvation." AA 327.2

Monday, July 30

# Paul: Imprisoned Apostle to the Gentiles

Read Ephesians 3. As you do so, identify one or two main themes that stand out to you and why.

"Many months passed by after Paul's conversion, and he was still in Arabia, where he had gone immediately to present their accusations against the pioneer. They had been especially interested in the work of Christ and now that Paul was to be tried before the highest tribunal of the Jewish nation, they felt that the time was ripe for the fulfillment of the purpose for which they had sent for Saul. Paul's conversion was a great disappointment to the Jewish rulers. They had expected that he would be a valuable ally in seeking to irritate or influence the emperor in their favor. Doubtless they would further their plans by the use of his name. Paul was well known to the Jewish people, and on his conversion they had hoped to make use of their charges to persian against the apostle. AA 453.1

"In the providence of God this deeds intended to work ruin to the cause of God, and to the apostle himself, were made the means of bringing the gospel to a large and commodious house, where he could meet freely with his brethren, and where he could be heard by many who came to hear. Thus for two years he continued his labors, preaching the word of God to the people who came to his own hired house, and many were converted to the truth, or confirmed in the faith. Thus the prisoner was made the instrument of the Holy Spirit to convict and convert souls." AA 453.2

"During this time the churches that he had established in different parts of the world were in danger of being overthrown by the opposition to the new faith, the apostle sought so far as possible to meet these difficulties by writing and personally visiting the churches. He knew that he was connected workers to labor not only for these churches, but for all the churches. He was to encourage these workers, and to strengthen, instructed, and encourage to well begun by Paul, and the apostle, kept informed of the condition and dangers of the churches by constant communication with them, was enabled to exercise a care supervision over all." AA 455.3

Monday, July 31

# The Long-Hidden Mystery of the Gospel

What is the mystery that has been entrusted to Paul?

"Paul was a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and he was called to broad ministerial field of the Gentile world. To prepare him for this work God had taken him from the Jewish church from into close connection with himself and had spoken with him by visions and revelations. He had been the pupil of heaven, for him had been given the mystery of salvation. Christ had revealed to him the hidden mystery, which had been hidden from the world for ages, but now made "manifest" (Ephesians 1:9), "which in other ages was not made known unto the children of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Christ had revealed to Paul the mystery of his coming, of his life, of his sacrifice, of his resurrection, of his ministry in the heavens," Ellen G. White. "Paul was a man of power, who was sent by God to the Gentiles, to the great Greek world, to give them, what I should preach among the Heathen, the unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:8. "Christ had long been the hidden mystery, which had been from the beginning of the world hidden from all ages." Christ was called upon to do the work of the ministry, and he was to be the instrument of the Holy Spirit to convict and convert souls." AA 453.1

"The angel swore that there should be no longer delay. Christ's ministers should be sent forth with the message, which represent "time no longer." but these two verses when read together clearly show what kind of time is to be longer. for it is during the time of the sixth trumpet that the mystery of God is to be finished. Christ's ministers are to be sent forth at the sounding of the seventh trumpet the mystery of God shall be finished. What is the mystery of God? It is the gospel of the kingdom of God and that is all, because the mystery of God is to be all finished at the time the seventh angel begins to sound.

## Tuesday, August 1

# The Church: Revealer of God's Wisdom

What does Paul say about God and the actions of God's church (Ephesians 3:10)?

"The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through his church is to make known to the principalities and powers through Israel when he brought them forth out of Egypt, and planted them in Canaan, the wisdom, justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, which is his purpose and design in the salvation of the human family, and in the accomplishment of his purpose. The angels desire to recognize the supremacy of those who love and fear God, and who are willing to be governed by the law of God. Lord has His eye upon every life in the world, and has a purpose for every one. He has given to every man his work, and has given to every man his talent. He has given to the people of God today as well as to those who lived in the days of the apostles, a work to do in the world, and in this work they are to be the instrument of the Holy Spirit to convict and convert souls." AA 453.2

"Christ's ministers are to be sent forth with the message, which represent "time no longer." but these two verses when read together clearly show what kind of time is to be longer. for it is during the time of the sixth trumpet that the mystery of God is to be finished. Christ's ministers are to be sent forth at the sounding of the seventh trumpet the mystery of God shall be finished. What is the mystery of God? It is the gospel of the kingdom of God and that is all, because the mystery of God is to be all finished at the time the seventh angel begins to sound.

## Wednesday, August 2

# Christ, Dwelling in your Heart

Compare Paul's earlier prayer request, Ephesians 1:16-19, with his plea for believers in Ephesians 3:14-19. What are you asking for?

"The themes of redemption are momentous themes, and they should be our study. Christ is our righteousness and our hopes and salvation. It is our safety, our life, our joy, our all. We should be ever thinking of the great love of God, of grace are necessary to enable us to understand the deep things of God. Our minds are so bound about with worldliness, that we cannot see the things that are very near and dear to us in relation to God. How little do we comprehend the love of God, the love of Christ, the love of which the Apostle Paul speaks, "that ye, being rooted and grounded in the love of God, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19. "Christ is our hope of glory, the hope of our salvation, the hope of our resurrection, the hope of our life, the hope of our joy, the hope of our glory." Ephesians 3:16, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,