

## Men's Table Talk in Ephesians Gary Allen Henecke DD

### μυστήριον

*For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (1:9-10 RSV)*

We have worked our way to the core of the universal letter of Paul, Christ Jesus' Apostle, the copy which we have is to the church in Ephesus. Across the past six weeks we have focused on:

1. This is one of Paul's "prison epistles"
2. The letter is universal – ancient copies exist without the name Ephesus included
3. From the very beginning the message is on a "mystery"
  - a. A mystery: not a secret or a puzzle
  - b. A mystery now revealed
  - c. Paul now focuses on the revelation:
    - i. This letter is in six chapters – the word "mystery appears" six (6) times

*Ephesians 1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles - assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, - how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (3:1-5 RSV)*

- ii. Christians think differently than all others concerning God
    1. Revelation is the only avenue to truth
    2. The core of the mystery is in Christ
  3. The first outgrowth of the mystery is inclusion of all ethnics

*When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (3:4-5 RSV)*

4. The second center of the letter is Paul's prayer
  - a. The prayer is the reason for this letter
  - b. The prayer is what Paul seeks – his goal

*To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him. 9 3:8-12 RSV)*

- c. The prayer begins with verse 3:14