

• • TRANSCRIPT

• August 13th 2026 "The Church, A Mystery Work Of God"

•

You Those who are watching on the Internet, Facebook Live, we're so thankful that you are watching. And again, Ephesians chapter three. We're going to begin in verse 1. And this is the Apostle Paul who's writing this letter to a mainly Gentile church. Amen. And he writes in Ephesians chapter 3, the Word of God says in verse 1, for this cause I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ, for you Gentiles, if ye have heard Of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you, how that by revelation he may known unto me the mystery as I wrote afore in a few words.

Whereby when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which is in other ages was not known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy angel, apostles, and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel. Let's pray. Father, we thank you. For your word. We thank you for all that you've done in our lives. We thank you for the Spirit birth that placed us into the body of Christ. And most of all, Lord, we ask you now that you would speak to each and every heart, give us true understanding.

May your Holy Spirit teach us your truths. And most of all, Lord, may that soul that doesn't know you be prompted to receive the Lord Jesus as his Lord and Savior. And this I pray in Jesus' name amen. Well, you can be seated at this time. And what an amazing thing. I titled this, The Church, a Mystery Work of God. I know last week I preached about the church that Christ is building. Amen. When he asked Peter whom do they say that I am? And that tremendous testimony that Peter gives about Jesus being you out the Christ, the Son of the living God, and what a statement that was. So, in that message last week, my points were the church that is built by the Lord Jesus Christ. And the second point was the church is built upon the Lord Jesus. And then the third point I had was believers are the church that Christ is building.

And that's what I'm gonna touch on today. This what is called the mystery. Amen. The mystery. Now a lot of people think when they come into a building like this or denomination, they think the building's the church. Amen? But it's not the church. We are the church. Those who have placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus and have been given the Holy Spirit and have been forgiven of their sins. That's the church. Amen. It's not the building, it's not this denomination. There are those who are in all different denominations that's part of what God calls his body, the body of Christ. But not all denominations are saved. Not even a Baptist. Just because you come into this building, just because you place your name on the roll of a Baptist or some denomination, that does not make you a Christian. And we have to understand that. Today I want to talk about the church that is a mystery, the work of God. God is working in His church, and the church is the body of Christ. And what Jim said in the during the announcements is if you are saved, if you are part of this local body of believers here in this church, we would like you if you were just sitting in a pew, we would like you to get involved.

That's exactly what God would want you to do. Because this is not an organization, amen. When you come into a denomination or a church they have an organization leadership and this and that But listen the church is the people Amen, and we're going to see this and in Ephesians chapter 1 while we're in Ephesians turn to Ephesians chapter 1 and look what it says Again, um. I want to just let you know that this was the Apostle Paul who's writing and he says in Ephesians Chapter 1 in verse 22 he says and had put all things under his feet and gave him this is concerning Christ and gave him to be the head over all things to the church which is his body the fullness of him that filleth all in all. So when you think of the church don't think of a building don't think of a particular denominator Of the body of Christ, the people who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus and had been what?

Filled with the Holy Spirit. That's another mystery. Amen? Also, we see this in Colossians. Turn with me to Colossians. Colossians chapter 1. Here in Colossians chapter one, again, we're Looking at this mystery. Colossians chapter 1, verse 18, talking about Jesus, says, and he is the head of the body, the church. See it? Christ's body on earth is what? The believers that are in the church. And then he says here, and he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead. That in all things. He might have preeminence for it pleased the father that in him should all fullness dwell and when we look at that in the Greek when you see where it says and he is the firstborn what that means is he's the head Amen the head.

Well, what does that mean? He's the CEO Amen. The CEO, he's the CEO. And what a blessing So as we see this the church is made up of those who are saved from their sins By trusting the blood of Jesus by trusting the gospel message that Jesus came he was born of a virgin He walked as a man perfect without sin yet. He went to a cross and died for all sin He was buried In three days. He rose again, and that resurrection power is afforded to all those who have put their trust in him. What an amazing thing. I'm excited when I hear that. I'm excited when I say that. This new body, the church, is made up of both Jews and Gentiles and is referred to by Paul as the new man. We are the new man in Christ. Amen. Jew and Gentile coming together in the body. And we see that in Ephesians. Go back to Ephesians chapter 2. Look what it says in Ephesians chapter 2, verse 15. It says, having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances. For to make in him Of twain that means to one new man so make in peace you know when you look at it when Jesus walked this earth in his earthly ministry in in Matthew chapter I believe is chapter 10 Jesus Jesus tells his apostles who had gathered together, well his disciples at this time, and what does he say?

Do not go to the Gentiles. Go to the lost sheep of Israel. And while you go, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand. What was he saying? His ministry was to the Jew because he had to show up to the Jew because all the prophecies in the Old Testament were concerned to the Jew of their Messiah coming and the kingdom of heaven that would be on this earth. So he was going to the Jew to reveal him to them that he is the true Messiah. And when he told the disciples, they had no clue that Gentiles would ever get saved. They thought this was exclusive to the Jew. Amen. Today we got it wrong. Some churches are teaching that the Gentiles, the church, that God has rejected the Jew. And that's not true. That's replacement theology. Amen God is in the church at this time to wake up the Jew and to

Proclaim the gospel message that Jesus is Lord and he died for sin The Lord Jesus is the head of the church We have three three. We have three seats here. You see a deacon sit in one seat and You see the middle seat empty.

Why? Because he's the church. He's the head. Amen? And he speaks to us and tells us how to have church through his word. But there's a lot of churches that have closed the book and have gone to do it their way. Amen? But we know that it's Christ's church. So as we look, the whole thing is the church. What's the Church? It's a mystery and that's what I want to speak on today so if you have your Bibles if you could please turn to Ephesians chapter 3 look what it says in verse 3 and my first point is the truth revealed to the Apostle Paul from God and Here in Ephesians chapter 3 verse 3.

It says how that man revelation he may know unto me the mystery as I wrote a four in a few words so here the Apostle Paul Is telling us that he had received here it is, listen to me special revelation which God had hid from man in the Old Testament. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, is now bringing his truth out to the Gentiles. And turn with me to Romans chapter 11, and we see this. In Romans chapter 11, look what it says in verse 13. And this is the Apostle Paul again speaking. He says, for I speak to you. Who is he speaking to? The Jews? The Gentiles. He says, for I speak to you, Gentiles. I am the apostle of the Gentiles magnified mine office what is he saying? He's saying listen Let me just kind of quote. I mean give you the background what he's saying listen. I have been called to the Gentiles by the risen Christ I Did not walk with Jesus in his earthly ministry when he prepared his disciples to reach the Jews. I said that in Matthew chapter 10, remember? I believe it's chapter 10, verse 27, 28.

And look at that, when he says, Go to just the lost sheep of Israel. " But the apostle Paul, who on the road to Damascus, he met the living risen Christ. Amen? And his life was changed. He was a Jew killing those who believed in Jesus. He's been called by Jesus to the Jew. The Jew but to go out further to the Gentiles and This very important. And that's why in Romans chapter 11 verse 13 He says for I speak to you Gentiles and as much as I am the apostle of the Gentiles I magnified my office He says my office is very important. I lift up this office to the Gentiles.

Because God is doing a work in this earth. He's doing a mystery work also look at galatians turn with me to galatians that's right before the book of ephesians galatians chapter 1 in galatians chapter 1 verse 11 he says again in in the book of uh galatians he writes in verse 11 this is the apostle paul again But I certify you. Brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man." Listen, the gospel message that we have, it wasn't in the mind of man to create this truth. It was God all the way from the foundation of the earth.

God knew that man would sin and that Christ, the Son of God, the second of the Trinity, would take upon a body, the human body, and walk as a man. And then die for man. Isn't that amazing? And then look what he says in verse 12, for I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. For ye have heard of my conversion. " Remember that? When he was on the road to Damascus? Ye have heard of my conversion" in time past. That's when he was living as a Jew. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. He was going out to kill Jews. And he says, In time past, the Jews'

religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God and wasted it. But now he's been called to it. Amen. Also, go to Galatians chapter 2, verse 8.

Amen writes here. He says for he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision what's he saying here? He's saying I did with Peter Listen to me look at me. He's saying what God did a mighty work God did through Peter to what, who's that? Ooze. What who's that news what God has done what Christ has done Working through Peter to the Jew look what he says Right here where am I verse 8? The same was mighty and me toward the Gentiles Now, I can't put my finger on this. I can't. I'm just going by my sanctified opinion. Amen. That I believe, reading and studying the scriptures, that the apostle Paul was so on fire to kill anyone that used that name Jesus. Anyone that believed in that name Jesus. He thought it was a false religion, it was a movement that he himself had to stamp out.

That he would he Himself had a stamp out that he made himself the all those Jews that believed in Jesus at that time were in fear of the name of Saul. Amen. And I believe when he was converted, God said, Listen, because they fear you, my ministry through you, Paul, is to go to the Gentiles now. And I believe he had such. A heart for the Jewish people that he would even give his own salvation that they might get saved. That's what he says in Romans, amen? To the fact that when he went all out preaching to the Gentiles that he would say, Hey, we need to raise up money for those poor Christian Jewish believers that are in Jerusalem because they're being persecuted and we need to support them. So I believe God called him to the Gentiles because God's perfect and he has a perfect plan. Amen. So when we look at this, I just want to let you know we see with Peter and the disciples after the resurrection of Jesus, 40 days he walked with them in his glorified body and he, in Acts Chapter 1, he says, Hey, stay in Jerusalem until the Father gives you what?

The Holy Spirit. They didn't understand all this. But he says, In Jerusalem, there's going to be something that's going to happen. And we know that that happened on the day of Pentecost, one of the feasts. Amen? And the Pentecost was around AD 33. So, the year. 33 AD, around that time, 33, 32, in that area, okay, is when Peter and the other disciples were given the Holy Spirit. They were all Jews at this time. And then we find in AD 36, now this is probably about three, four years after Pentecost, we find Stephen. And Stephen is now saying to the Jews.

Hey, listen, you rejected the Christ and you even killed them, but God raised them up and He said you oh Man he got them all heated up. Amen and what happened all they could see but in their eyes because they had rejected their Messiah and they said hey, I We're going to kill this Steven for what he's saying. And what did they do? They killed him. The age was, the year was probably around AD 36. So this is what? Maybe three years, four years after Pentecost. The church was all Jew at this time. The Jew had no understanding that a Gentile could get saved. You understand me? Until Peter, with the keys of the kingdom Went to Cornelius house and spoke to the Gentiles and that's the first time that I'm trying to wake you up Stephen and that's the first time that you see God beginning to move on the Gentiles and He had prepared who Paul when Paul was what holding in the clothes of those who Stoning Stephen even in the midst of. That God was preparing Paul Saul was his name Amen, and it

was about the year AD 38 think of this Since the Pentecost it were all these years was just a Jew until Cornelius's house, the first Gentile in his house that believed the gospel message got saved, but they didn't just get saved, they were given the Holy Spirit as soon as they believed and received.

And Peter looked and said, Whoa, the Holy Spirit is falling on the Gentiles, we got to get them baptized. Amen. You see what's going on. So, when Paul is writing in Ephesians chapter 3, he's speaking of what is called this mystery Jew and Gentile now receiving the blessings of forgiveness and grace and an inheritance in heaven because of Christ the head. Never forget this. We are the church. You could be in here right now. And you call yourself a Christian, but just because you are in this meeting house, doesn't mean you are a Christian until you receive the Lord Jesus Christ. Not everybody that comes to church is saved and going to heaven. who have received the message that Jesus is Lord and Savior, and it was Jesus that died for sins, and there's nothing you could ever do no goodness, no baptism, no follow.

With some church directives or spiritual things that they do bow in and and lighting candles Listen that will not save you. The only thing that can save you is the shed blood of Jesus Amen, so we see that this truth of the mystery was Revealed to the Apostle Paul and he writes this in in Ephesians chapter 3 verse 3 how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery What's that mystery what I'm about to say? This term mystery which the Bible uses refers to the truths was God previously hid And in the Old Testament Amen He previously did the mystery of the church That's why when the Jew was reading his scriptures. He looked at the Gentiles He says man, then there's hope they're hopeless.

They're without any hope and that's why Peter and those those those Jews that went with Peter to Cornelius house was in shock Matter of fact God had a show Peter while he was done eating Right. He was eating how the neck came down and it was all kind of fish in there even Unclean and he says Peter eat. He said whoa.

Wait a minute Lord Nothing unclean has touched my lips. What is he? He's a what he's a practicing Obedient Jew even though he followed Jesus and God was showing him by that net that God was going to do a great work and it's called the mystery bringing Jew and Gentile together and here the Apostle Paul is teaching it and He says go back to Ephesians Ephesians chapter 3 and Again like I said, let me just repeat this this term mystery Which the Bible uses refers to the truths which God previously hid for men in the Old Testament but which he has now revealed in the New Testament writings and it calls it mystery and In Ephesians chapter 3 look what it says in verse 4 He says here whereby When you read you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ He said what he's saying is listen Gentiles. This is something new that God is doing today not what he did in the Old Testament when he had the Temple and all that he's saying God is doing something today and it's a mystery and Then he says here in verse 5 which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as it is Now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit see Paul says in verse 5 this mystery was not made known to anyone until the New Testament Apostles and prophets Can I tell you another mystery? But that's for another day The rapture It's a mystery you could not see it in the Old Testament.

It was never preached in the Old Testament. It was never taught And matter of fact in Jesus earthly

ministry. He never taught it.

He only showed a valeness of it Amen, I mean if you now that we have the Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit teaches us this things when I look back at Enoch To me Enoch pitches the rapture of the church Those who walk with God and not amen And then when I see when I see that Noah in the ark, I see God's people Going through the genit the tribulation Amen This is what I see. Maybe you don't see it same thing when he says And when Jesus kind of veils to himself about the church when he comes back But listen the the rapture the rapture was a Mystery just like the church is the mystery Where am I? I'm all messed up. Now.

I Dropped my sword. Can you imagine that? Man my sword is all twisted now. I got to go shopping it so we see That God revealed to the Apostle Paul the mystery It wasn't revealed anywhere else Secondly and I got to move Secondly a new work of God through Christ That's what he's gonna teach.

This mystery is a new work of God through Christ Look what he says in Ephesians chapter 3 verse 6 in Ephesians chapter 3 verse 6. He says that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and Partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. What's he talking about the Gentiles? He's talking about the Gentiles are now been put in a position Where we have the promises that God has given to the Jew We have an inheritance in heaven. Maybe not on earth, but in heaven God has Engrafted you and I into Israel Amen God's done a great work Paul says that this new revelation was that the Gentiles and Jewish believers would be joined Together and one new spiritual body, which is Christ and he's the head Amen, and listen the body has to be connected to the head Somebody chop your head off what's gonna happen to your body? I say that only because there's a lot of churches out there that have removed the head and placed man's intuition and man's Imagination into the church and you got to be careful the point is that both Jews and Gentiles are united to share the blessings of Christ equally This was never seen in the Old Testament That's why it's called a mystery Amen Look what it says in Ephesians chapter 1 Ephesians chapter 1 look what it says in verse 3 and Again, the Apostle Paul is writing to this Gentile church in Ephesus and he writes Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus who had blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ According as he had chosen us in him before the foundation of the world that he should that we should be Holy and without blame before him in love Having predestined us Unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself According to the pleasure of his will what does that mean? He means this all those Believers all those Gentiles who placed their trust in Jesus will be brought into this.

This was pre-ordained by God That Jesus would one day die. That's why in and this is not a notes But in Hebrews chapter what 12 verse 1 and 2 when it says for the joy That that Jesus had for the joy that was set before him he endured the cross Why because he saw every one of you that would place your faith in Jesus He saw that you would no longer condemn, but you were brought into a relationship With a father through what he did. Isn't that exciting? I The passion I've watched this so many times and I and when Jesus is carrying that the cross through the streets of Jerusalem and he falls down and he looks down the corridor and he sees he sees his mother Mary crying Looking at him and all of a sudden you see him like get strong and he picks it up again He says come to make all things new.

Oh I'm getting excited. I need to calm myself down Amen today the Gentiles the Gentile believers members of the same body in Christ as the Jews are There are not two separate groups There are only one body the body of Christ which Jesus is the head Now I know you have a lot of what we call messianic Jews But you know what? They are. They're they're Jews that believe the New Testament They call them messianic because they are following the Messiah, but their flavor is still Jewish But listen, they're still our brothers Amen, if you go to a church that is teaching that Jesus that God has rejected the Jew And placed all his promises and blessings on the church run for the hills Because they're teaching a false gospel Amen, I Won't give you names Figure it out.

God's giving you the Holy Spirit. You walk into a church that's teaching that run out the door Ephesians chapter 10 look what it says in if I mean in chapter 1 Ephesians chapter 1 verse 10 Look what the Bible says That in the dispensation of the fullness of time He might gather in one all things in Christ Both which are in heaven and which are on earth and in him Listen, can you imagine what he's saying in the dispensation of time with that word? Dispensation that means God has you God listen. This is how easy this is Dispensation means God was working a plan to the human to the human race at certain times before Abraham Isaac and Especially Jacob.

There was no Jew Everyone was Gentiles Amen and then in a dispensation of time he stepped out and used one man Abraham he pulled Abraham out of the Gentile nations, and he says Abraham He had no children. I am gonna bless you in your seed. I'm gonna give you the land I'm gonna give you these promises.

That was a new dispensation and then came to Jesus Jesus enters on the scene and two-thirds of the Old Testament promises been fulfilled in the Lord Jesus for the Judas see and now this dispensation is the Church Age and He says in verse 11 in whom this is Ephesians chapter 1 verse 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestined According to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will That at that time you were without Christ you speak into the Gentiles Being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel they had nothing to do with the Jew or the the temple all of that and then he says here and strangers from the covenants of promise having no hope and without God in the world and then Jesus came and then Jesus died and Jesus wrote rose again and then look what it says in verse 13, but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were a fire off I made nigh by the blood of Christ Isn't that amazing? man, we can get so much and This is my last point and I'm gonna go quick on this one verse 3 a new spiritual body Turn to Ephesians chapter 3 again and look what it says in verse 6 Ephesians the a new spiritual body says in verse 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and Partakers of the his promise in Christ by the gospel. Isn't that amazing? Listen, it doesn't matter what pedigree you could have been some Of some royal blood Or you could have been a project kid Man, you could have been a Portuguese you could have been a I Don't know Irish Or you could be like me a Cape Verdean without hope in the world until Jesus came It was what he did on that cross and when I believe that gospel message I Received Jesus and it because I received him. I received the promises.

I received the Inheritance and I my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Isn't that amazing? Doesn't that cheer you up Paul's point is that previously Unrevealed truth of God is that all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ together make up Christ's body regardless of their race Regardless of where they were brought up You know one of the greatest moves right now of people getting saved is in the is in the Middle East right now With the Muslims, you just don't know it because they're not letting you know that First Corinthians chapter 12 verse 13 says this for by one spirit are we all baptized into one body whether we be Jews or Gentiles whether we be born the free and Have been all made to drink in one spirit now, that's not talking about water baptism That's talking about spiritual baptism when we're all placed in Jesus. Amen by the Holy Spirit the gospel Christ and his church was meant to be a universal scope God did not say only Jews will be saved God used the Jew to bring the gosh the the Word of God God used the Jew so that we would understand that there's one God Amen but now that Jesus died He's over it's not exclusive anymore.

It's inclusive to all who would come to him all who would believe That it might be someone here who's never trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior I'm here to tell you that all you need to do. I don't care what you've done. I don't care what you're struggling with Jesus wants to forgive you He wants to save you and he wants to fill you with his spirit and bring you into this body Which is called the church Where he's head he wants to be Lord of your life, but if this has to be Savior and in Romans chapter 10 Now I say all the time in verse 13, but let's look at verse 12 Romans chapter 10 verse 12 It says for there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek that word Greek means Gentile For the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him and Then of course verse 13, which I use all the time for whosoever Man, that's anybody.

I Don't care how much money you got in your pocket. God don't need your money That's why when you first time come here, we say listen keep your money in your pocket. We're not here for your money We're here to tell you about Jesus.

Amen And Then he says in verse 13. Well, who so ever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved Isn't that amazing? I Don't care where you are You could do this in a shower. Yeah people got saved in the shower You you are you kidding me? Yeah, they weren't just cleaned by soap.

They were cleaned by the blood of Jesus You know, I I mentioned August 13th 1997 I was in the tower at my job when I Asked the Lord to save me. I wasn't in church. I Was having church though Amen But listen this invitations to all who would place their trust in him And I'm here to tell you if you come into this church Listen that doesn't make you a Christian if You believe in Jesus That doesn't make you a Christian even Satan believes who Jesus is Don't believe that lie You have to place your faith and trust in him You have to call on him as it says in Romans 10 13 Well, whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord.

How do you call on him in simple prayer? All you need to do is Lord. I'm a savior and I need forgiveness. I Believe that you died for me.

I believe that your God that left heaven and walked as a man went to the cross and died for my sin and rose again the third day and is back in heaven and I believe you're listening to me now Jesus a Sinner That needs forgiveness Lord. Forgive me come into my life and save me. That's all you need to do You need it.

You don't need to jump through all these hopes. All you need to do is say Lord forgive me a sinner Amen and listen He will know wise cast you out If he sees that sincere faith in your heart, he will save you even today Why don't we stand? Aren't you excited? Listen, I'm excited. I don't know about you.

I get excited when I preach God's Word why because it's his word and it's not my opinion and Listen, I had no hope until I received Christ With none of us have hope Until we place our faith and trust in Jesus and I pray that that would be you You know, there's so many people there's so many different churches out there They're teaching this and they're preaching that and they're going after this and they're going after that. Let's stick with the book let's hear what the God has said in his precious book and What he says is he's making a mystery a new work and that's the church Jew and Gentile coming together through Jesus Christ Would that be you? Let's pray father. We thank you father only you can do the work It's the Holy Spirit work can only convict the heart and father.

I pray that this message might have spoken to somebody Made them understand what the church truly is. It's an organism of believers not an organization of This and that and you were the head Lord Jesus You're the one that shed your blood You're the one that laid down your life that we could go free of the penalty of our sin father speak to that one who might not understand that and May you help their faith To receive you as Lord and Savior and Father we thank you for all you do and what you're still about to do with this amazing this amazing Salvation plan that you put together That anyone Can come to you by faith. So father.

Thank you in Jesus name. Amen