

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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The Intent of God

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Introduction

As human beings we can be so involved in the process of living that we forget to consider life's purpose; or, if we do think about it, it is usually from the viewpoint of achieving a fullness of life so that we won't have any regrets for what comes after this life. Both believers and unbelievers think along the same lines. The only real difference is that believers dress up their thoughts and actions with the idea that their life is dedicated to "doing God's work". However, most of us don't have a clue about what "God's work" really is. We have substituted religious activity and pious ideals to fulfill our ideas about the "work of God". This makes us feel significant and important in the grander scheme of things, or so we think.

We need to remember that God is the most intelligent being that ever was, is, or shall be. It was out of His intelligence that all of creation has come, which includes many other beings besides humans, some of which are probably more intelligent than we are. [*Read the Book of Revelation and you will see this.*]

The controversy between evolution and creationism had resulted in the concept of *intelligent* design, meaning that there must be a God who created everything. Well, duh!! Of course there is a God. Even the demons know that there is a God and, unlike many of us, they have enough sense to tremble at His name (*James 2:19*).

The point of *intelligent* design is not that there is a God; that is a given. The point is that *the design is intelligent*; that is, that there is intent, purpose, reason behind all that God has done, which includes us and all of creation. We would do well to consider the words of the psalmist.

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet, (*Psalms 8:3-6 NKJV*)

When we look at the wonder and majesty of all of creation, we seem to be pretty insignificant.

We are made by Him to be lower than the angels. That means that we, as humans, have less intelligence, less ability, less function than the angels do. And yet, God has given us work to do. He has given us dominion over the things that He has created. God has done this on purpose.

We, however, have reduced the purpose of God to the need to “get us to heaven”. While that might be a good thing for us, it is not the purpose of God but simply a by-product, a side effect, of the intent of God. Our understanding of God and His plans have been reduced to Christianized religious cliches designed to allay our fears of life after death. Yet, the New Testament repeatedly refers to the “mysteries” of God and His intention. What are we missing?

Mystery Defined

The electronic Webster Dictionary defines “mystery” in this manner:

MYS'TERY, n. [L. *mysterium*; Gr. a secret. This word in Greek is rendered also *murium latibulum*; but probably both senses are from that of hiding or shutting; Gr. to shut, to conceal.

1. A profound secret; something wholly unknown or something kept cautiously concealed, and therefore exciting curiosity or wonder; ...
2. In religion, any thing in the character or attributes of God, or in the economy of divine providence, which is not revealed to man.
3. That which is beyond human comprehension until explained. In this sense, mystery often conveys the idea of something awfully sublime or important; something that excites wonder.

In the Scriptures it is the third definition listed above that is the primary definition of “mystery”-- something concealed or hidden in God that is beyond our comprehension until it is revealed or explained to us by the Holy Spirit. This is the way that Paul used the word:

the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ([Colossians 1:26 NKJV](#))

Paul referred to the mystery of God on several occasions and revealed that it was something that God is unfolding in this age, revealing His purpose to the heavenlies.

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should 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; 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*, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ([Ephesians 3:8-11 NKJV](#))

Paul said in verse 3, “...that by revelation He made known to me the mystery...”; that is, the Holy Spirit had opened his understanding of the mystery that had been hidden in God from the beginning of the ages. In verse 10 Paul gives us the reason, “to the intent that...”, so, we see that the “mystery” has to do with God's intention before the ages, before creation, and that this mystery is now unfolding in time so that the manifold, variegated, multifaceted wisdom of God can be shown forth to the rulers and authorities of the heavenlies.

Based on this, I would say that understanding this mystery is pretty important if we want to understand God's plans. Our self-centered little souls make it all about us, but, actually, it is all about what God has intended from the beginning. We must move our perspective from ourselves and our needs to God and His purposes.

The Intent of God

God has stated in the scriptures His two-fold purpose, His ultimate intention. Nothing will prevent God from accomplishing this; it is foreordained, predestined by the will of God. I call it a two-fold purpose because there is an individual aspect and a corporate aspect. At the close of this age, these two aspects of God's intent merge into only one, which is the fulfillment of God's purpose and the full revelation of the mystery of God to the heavens.

Hebrews 2:10 tells us that God is “bringing many sons to glory”. This is the individual aspect of God's purpose. The verses prior to this one in Hebrews tells us about Jesus becoming a little lower than the angels and coming to us to taste death on our behalf as part of the process of “bringing many sons to glory”.

As the “many sons” are brought forth, God begins to accomplish His corporate purpose, which is related to the mystery of His will.

having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 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 which are on earth—in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10 NKJV)

What God has purposed in Himself, in the mystery of His will, was that at the close of the age, the fullness of the times, He would gather all things in heaven and earth together in one—Christ Jesus.

As stated above, these are God's goals—an individual objective of bringing many sons to glory and a corporate objective of summing all things up in One. Unlike us who set goals and objectives and never achieve them because we become distracted and get side-tracked, God has placed the full intention of His will in accomplishing these goals.

Revealed in the Earth

There are three aspects of the manifestations of God's intent in the earth. The first is the individual; being born again as a son of God. The second is the family, the *ekklesia*, the church; which helps to bring the sons to maturity. The third is the society, the Kingdom where the sons begin to do the work which was prepared for them beforehand (*Ephesians 2:10*).

The Holy Spirit works in us, with us, and through us to accomplish what is necessary to fulfill God's intent in all three of these areas. If we are only concerned with one area of the Lord's work in us or refuse to participate in some area which we don't like or understand, then there are aspects of our life that remain immature, childish and hinder our ability to fulfill God's purpose for our life and our place in the accomplishment of His intention.

Let us be as Paul and have the same mindset that he had:

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay

hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
(Philippians 3:12-15 NKJV)

There is a prize in the intent of God. Let's move forward. Let's reach for the goal. We have to grow up a little bit. It takes some maturity to have this mind. It is now time to put off childish things and think and do as one who is maturing.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (1 Corinthians 13:11 NKJV)

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