



Introduction to Ephesians (Pt. 2)

Paul's Epistles

THE TRANSITION PERIOD (CIRCA 35 TO 64 AD) (Also called Acts Period)

Peter And The

God's Prophetic Program With the Nation of Israel: DIMINISHING

God's Mystery Program
With the Body of Christ:
INCREASING

Paul Wrote Romans 60 AD



Night of Israel's
Prophecy under
Gentile Darkness is
Far Spent. Rom. 13

Salvation

Is nearer.

Day is at

Rom. 13

Hand.

Body of
Christ
Salvation
And Day
Are here

Transition
Period
Over by Col. 1
Circa 64 AD



Israel's Prophetic Program Set Aside

A

2. Some suggest a general order to Paul's Epistles based on 2 Tim. 3:16-17:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

3. The terms:

- a. Doctrine/Instruction—that which is taught from God's Word
 —teaching, instruction—today PGMT.
- b. Reproof—rebuking someone who is in sin based on PGMT.
- c. Correction—returning or restoring someone to a right position, who has fallen into error based on PGMT.

Romans—Doctrine and Instruction 1 & 2 Corinthians—Reproof Galatians—Correction

Ephesians—Doctrine and Instruction Philippians—Reproof Colossians—Correction

Thessalonians—Doctrine and Instruction

- 4. This is a good teaching tool but as with everything, it shouldn't be taken too far. Certainly, there is much correction and reproof in Romans and Ephesians and much doctrine and instruction in Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians and Colossians.
 - -- It is a general tool not an absolute tool.

- 5. My own twist on this would categorize the order of Paul's Epistles a little differently based on the 4 most important questions anyone in the world can ask today. Romans answers the first 3 questions, Ephesians the 4th question.
 - a. Question #1: Unbelievers: How do I get saved (Rom. 1-4).
 - b. Question #2: Believers: What is God doing today with those He has justified by faith?
 - --Answer: He is placing them in a new group of redeemed humanity in Christ under His Head as members of the Body of Christ (Rom. 5-8).

- c. Question #3: And why did God need a new group of people?
 - --Answer: Because He began a new previously kept secret Program, His Mystery Program (Rom. 9-11).
- d. Question #4: And why did God need a new Mystery Program?
 - --Answer: Romans does not answer this question ...

But Ephesians does!

Answer: Because God has a new revelation about His ultimate purpose for the whole universe with reference to the Heavenlies.

--He needed a new Mystery Program because He had a newly revealed Purpose to reestablish His Glory in the Heavenlies through a REDEEMED HUMANITY —something kept secret from eternity past, hid in God (Eph. 1:9-10; 2:6-7; 3:10).



- 6. The Corinthians were departing from Roman's Pauline Grace Mystery Truth by questioning and disparaging Paul's distinct apostleship (1 Cor. 4:15), resulting in:
 - --Divisions (1 Cor. 1-4),
 - --unacceptable service (1 Cor. 3),
 - --pride (1 Cor. 4),
 - --immorality (1 Cor. 5-6),
 - --unloving relationships with others (1 Cor. 8),
 - --failure to follow Paul as he follows Christ (1 Cor. 9-11:1),
 - --rejecting Grace which leads to rebellion (1 Cor. 10-11),
 - --misuse of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14) and
- --errors about the resurrection (1 Cor. 15) to name a few things.

- 7. The Galatians were departing from Roman's Pauline Grace Mystery Truth, by departing from Paul's distinct Gospel, bringing down God's curse, resulting in:
 - --leaving Him (GOD!) who called them into the grace of Christ (Gal. 1).
 - --going back to the Law (Gal. 1-2),
 - --bringing them into foolishness and bondage (Gal. 3-4),
 - --enslaved in bondage that prevented acceptable service in true Love,
 - --becoming characterized by the things of the flesh (Gal. 5-6).

- 8. And the Philippians and Colossians were departing from Ephesian full-knowledge of PGMT by:
 - a. The Philippians were not holding all members of the Body of Christ in Love in the Full-knowledge of Pauline Grace Mystery Truth that would result in diminishing service to God (Phil. 4:2; 2:1-4; 1:9-11).
 - b. The Colossians were starting to not hold the Head of the Body of Christ in Love—Christ's preeminence over all—in the Full-Knowledge of Pauline Grace Mystery Truth, which would lead them into errors (Col. 2:19).

- 9. 1 & 2 Thessalonians needed to be reminded of the PGMT regarding the distinction between end-time aspects of the night of Israel's Prophetic Program—the Day of the Lord-- and the end of the Disp. Of Grace with the Body of Christ's Mystery Program—Appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ--The Day of Christ—the Rapture Event.
 - --Confusing these things de-stabilized them and made them anxious and despairing.

10. The answer to all these problems is to follow Paul because he is the one following Christ (1 Cor. 4:15-17; 11:1; Gal. 1:6-9).

11.So that in the Disp. Of the Fullness of Times He might gather together in one all things in Christ both which are in Heaven (according to the Body of Christ's Mystery Program) and on earth (according to Israel's Prophetic Program) (Eph. 1:10)