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오늘의 말씀

“Paul's Dream”

[Eph. 3:1-4]

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles – (2) if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, (3) how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written al-ready, (4) by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mys-tery of Christ),

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As I have often said, Paul is an ideal model to me. Today's text is what makes me more fascinated with Paul.

In the text Paul describes himself as "Paul, the prisoner for the things of Christ Jesus...". The literal translation of this word in the English Bible is "I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles...".

Paul saw himself not as a prisoner of Rome but as a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and as a prisoner of the love of Jesus Christ, not as a prisoner within the prison cells of Rome.

Paul already said in 1 Corinthians 15, "I am what I am by the grace of God so that I may testify of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Paul knew that his very existence was for Jesus Christ.

Only those who can say this can say this. "For to me to live is Christ, so to die is to gain" (Philippians 1:21).

A fully dedicated life is a life that sees all things in the light of Christ.

There is nothing that happened to me that Jesus Christ did not allow.

If he allowed it, it must have been for some good reason.

So I don't question or complain about anything. Because the Lord directs my life according to the will of His pleasure.

In particular, Paul speaks of being a captive of Christ for the sake of the Gentiles.

The essence of the problem between Paul and the Jews was not that Paul followed Jesus Christ. Rather, the church in Jerusalem had collaborated with the Jewish community at times. So, the church in Jerusalem at that time was overflowing with Jews. Sadly, this may be evidence of the decline of the church.

The church's peaceful partnership with the world may mean that it is compromising its position with the world.

Jesus said to his disciples. "If the world hates you, know this. Before the world hated you, it hated me."

Jesus said that the world hates him because he says the world is evil. d. So be careful when the whole world likes you.

Paul's problem is that he preaches the gospel to Gentiles even though he is a Jew, and tells them that God's covenant is valid even to Gentiles apart from the observance of the Mosaic Law.

When Paul entered the Jerusalem church with the offerings of the Gentile churches, James said, "Many believing Jews have gathered here, all of them zealous for the law. All these people have heard that you told the Jews to forsake the law of Moses, and not to circumcise their children, nor to keep their traditions. They will come when they hear that you are here." So Paul was commanded to pay the cost of the vows of the four young men, shave his and their heads, and to prove among the Jews that he was a keeper of the Jewish laws and ordinances.

But as we have already studied in Acts, their plan did not work. Eventually, Paul was taken to a Roman prison because of the Gentiles. So, Paul's expression, "I am a prisoner for the Gentiles" is correct.

Paul, who served for the Gentiles even while imprisoned in this way, continues to speak to the Gentiles in prison. Paul wants them to know the knowledge he had of the mystery of Christ. This was Paul's wish.

This knowledge did not come from man, but by revelation directly from the Lord. If you have received from the Lord a complete understanding of any part of the Bible, it will be your strong desire to share that grace you have received with others.

Right now I am filled with such joy from what I have discovered through the Word of God.

I am so blessed by this message of grace, and I have an earnest desire to share it with you.

It is the message of the Lord that we get through fellowship with the Lord that makes us feel alive and feel the powerful energy in our lives as Christians. If you want your life of faith to be truly joyous and meaningful, add depth to your communion with the Lord every day. So, if you always receive the message of the Lord, you can become a Christian full of energy.

In the Bible, the common characteristic of those who have lived in the world with a passion that is always full of joy and even lay down their lives is that they are people who, like Paul, are captivated by the Lord and constantly share love with the Lord.

Much of the epistles are devoted to dealing with the mystical subjects that God has revealed to His apostles and prophets. The apostles poured the zeal of their lives in-to sharing with others the revelations of God that had been given to them. So the apostles put in their books the joys of communion with God and new revelations they had discovered.

This is why Paul says "when you read". If we want to live a life of faith like the apostles, we must read diligently.

This letter, called Ephesians, was specially written to be read by all the churches in the Ephesian area.

The reason the Bible was written and given to us was not to cherish it and keep it on a high bookshelf. It must be opened and read. As you read this book, you will feel the words in it just come alive and rush into your heart. Those experiences will give you the strength to live the world as a believer. Even if someone persecutes you or attacks you, you will become believers who will never be afraid or withdrawn.

This is why I consider Paul a role model in my life. Paul continued his fellowship with the Lord anew every day. And every day he received new revelations from the Lord. And he had

uncontrollable passion in his heart to share with others the revelations he had received. He loved what was given to him so much that to think of not passing it on to others, he would be mad at himself... He couldn't stand it. Who could stop such a person? I hope that we all become people that no one can stop.

Finally, let's take a moment to share the content of the secret, or revelation, that Paul so madly wanted to pass on to us. The secret is that Gentiles like me and you have come to enjoy the blessings of God's children just like the Jews. The reason Paul calls this a mystery is that it was not known in Old Testament times.

Of course, there were some hints that some Gentiles would be saved. For example...

[Isa. 11:10] "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

[Isa. 45:22] "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."

[Isa. 49:6] Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'

However, it was very unfamiliar to the Jews that the Gentiles would occupy a part of God's inheritance like the Jews did. The things that are often referred to as mysteries in the New Testament are things that God has now made known that were not re-vealed previously.

Jesus said that this mystery was revealed by Himself, which many prophets and the righteous did not see or hear, no matter

how hard they tried.

[Matt. 13:17] "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Paul said this.

[Rom. 16:25] Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

Peter said that even angels envy this mystery given to us.

[I Pet. 1:10-12] Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, (11) searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified before-hand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (12) To them it was re-vealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into.

But all these secrets were made known by the Holy Spirit to the apostles and proph-ets.

This secret revelation was not specifically given to Paul.

Peter was the first to receive the revelation. He saw this in the attic of Simon's house by the seashore. Jesus said to him. "Do not call unclean what I have washed and made clean." It was only when he went to the home of the Roman soldier Cornelius that he fully understood this secret.

It was Peter who opened the first door for the Gentiles, but it was Paul who invited the Gentile world into salvation.

Paul summarizes this revealed mystery in three words. Paul

longed for us to know this. He wanted it so much that he was willing to lay down his life for it.

The first is that we as Gentiles became heirs with Jesus.

[Rom. 8:15-17] For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

We are the children of the king. We will rule and reign with him in the future. We have become heirs of wealth beyond the limits of human imagination.

[Gal. 3:29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

[Gal. 4:6-7] And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Second, Gentiles, along with Jews, became members of the heavenly community.

[Gal. 3:26-28] For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

As we shared last Wednesday evening, there are many conditions that can separate us, but only in Christ we are one.

The third is that we became partakers of the promise together. What is the promise? The first is eternal life.

[1 Jh. 2:25] And this is the promise that He has promised us --

eternal life.

[Tit. 3:7] that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

[I Jh. 5:11-13] And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (13) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

I bless you that the knowledge of this secret may make your heart race every day.