



MZBMP

Sunday Morning Service Study Notes  
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### **TITLE:**

Ephesians 1:9-10 - Having Made Known unto Us the Mystery of His Will

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- Paul wrote the epistle to the church at Ephesus during his first imprisonment in Rome.
- One of his goals in writing the epistle is to safeguard the believers from the errors present in the Colossian church.
- The theme of the Epistle: Because of our position in Christ in heavenly places, we have to walk with Christ on earth.
- Ephesians 1:9-10 is part of the first section of the Doctrinal Content of the epistle.
- This section contains “all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

### **REVIEW: BELIEVER’S POSITION IN CHRIST:**

1. God hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ (1:3).
2. Before the foundation of the world, God hath chosen us that we should be holy and without blame before Him (1:4).
3. God hath predestinated the us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ (1:5).
4. God hath made us accepted in the beloved (1:6).
5. We have redemption and forgiveness of sins (1:7).

### **MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL**

- 1:9-10 explains 1:8 how God had abounded His grace toward us in all wisdom and prudence (or understanding).
  - The grace that is rich, abundant, and plentiful has been abounded toward in all wisdom and prudence.
  - God had abounded His grace toward us by having made known unto us His will.
- Mystery of God’s Will
  - The word “will” (θελήματος - thelēmatos) means determination, desire, or choice.
    - God has a will that he has performed throughout history.
    - Illustration: Blueprint of a building. Throughout construction, everything is done according to the plan or blueprint.
    - Believers are responsible for proving what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:1-2).
      - It requires not to conform to this world.
      - It requires transformation by renewing our minds through the Scripture.
  - God’s will includes His good pleasure for us.
    - This is also mentioned in 1:5 - “according to the good pleasure of his will”
    - Good pleasure means kindness, good purpose, and desire.
    - God is not a terrible God.
      - In many ancient mythologies, the gods were known for their unpredictable behavior and did not always show kindness towards humans.
      - For example, in Greek mythology, the gods on Mount Olympus were known for their temperamental nature, sometimes punishing humans for perceived slights.
    - Because of God’s kindness, He elected everyone to get saved. See 1 John 2:2, 2 Tim. 2:10.
  - God’s will is a mystery.
    - The word “mystery” (μυστήριον - mystērion) means hidden or secret.
    - There are nine mysteries are mentioned in the NT.
      - E.g. mystery of godliness, of the church, of Israel’s temporary blindness, of the kingdom of heaven, of rapture, of Babylon, and of iniquity.
    - God has a will and He hid in previous ages.
      - He didn’t reveal this truth in the Old Testament.

## HAVING MADE KNOWN UNTO US

- God's will is made known unto us.
  - This is how God had abounded His rich grace toward us (1:8).
  - It was revealed unto His apostles and prophets by the Spirit (cf. 3:3-5).
  - The world through their wisdom knows:
    - Genome editing - a method for making specific changes to the DNA of a cell or organism.
    - Harnessing energy through solar, wind, and nuclear.
    - Treating infections using antibiotic or antiviral medicine.
    - However, a believer can know what is God's will for all eternity and today - what He is doing throughout history.
    - His will is revealed in His written word.
  - Having made known unto us His will is according to His good pleasure.
  - God hath purposed His good pleasure in Himself.
    - He doesn't need anyone's opinion or advice.
    - Giving us blessings, choosing us, predestinating us, and redeeming us is part of His will.
    - He hath purposed these in Himself "before the foundation of the world" (cf. 1:4, Rev. 13:8).
- God performs His will in the dispensation of the fullness of times.
  - The word "dispensation" (οἰκονομίαν - oikonomian) means administration - where the word "economy" comes from.
  - God is administering fullness or completion of times (past ages, present ages, and future ages) to execute His will and desire.
    - Satan, with his power and control in this world, can't change God's will and plan.
    - Powerful countries of our time can't change God's will and plan.
    - No one would not be able to change God's will and desire.
  - Part of God's will:
    - Creating everything.
    - Choosing Israel as a nation to testify for the Almighty God in the world.
    - Giving the Law to Israel and to all mankind to show their sinfulness before God.
    - Giving temporary blindness to Israel.
    - Sending His Son Jesus Christ to die for all our sins.
    - Establishing the church and calling people to get saved through the preaching of the gospel.
    - Restoring Israel.
    - Establishing Christ's kingdom on earth.
    - Creating new heaven and new earth.
    - These are all part of God's administration of all the ages under His will.
- What is God's will?
  - It is the gathering together in one (to sum up) all things in Christ.
  - All things are the things which are in heaven, and all things on earth - even in Christ.
  - The word "all things" (πάντα - panta) refers to all creation including all individuals.
    - These include all saved persons of all ages.
    - These include the whole creation (cf. Rom. 8:20-22).
    - The unbelievers and the fallen angels are not part of this "all things."
- When is the gathering together would happen?
  - This would happen in the new heaven and new earth.

## CHALLENGE:

*Ephesians 4:17-18 - This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

- Does the way you walk differ from that of unbelievers?