

Terry Fullam Audio Library

Scriptural References and Comment Notes

08-123-6 GOD'S MYSTERY AND MAN'S MATURITY

1:00 Ephesians 3:1-13 The mystery made known – The Gentiles are to be heirs together with Israel, members of one body – Further, through the Body of Christ (Church) the wisdom of God shall be known and glorified according to His eternal purpose accomplished in Christ.

4:10: Colossians 1:24-27 The glorious riches of the mystery – Which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory.

10:30 Jeremiah 9:23-24 Wise men should not boast of wisdom, powerful men should not boast of their power and rich men should not boast in their wealth but if one is to celebrate, let it be because he knows and understands the Lord.

12:30 – 34:00 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Terry teaches on the Body of Christ (Church-God's family) and the parallel to the physical body. Each part is essential to the full productivity of the Body. We are, as members of the body, joined unto one another.

34:30 Many of the Lord's blessings will not come directly to us from God – but through another member.

36:50 Maturity is in reference to the entire Body of Christ not as to individual parts.

08-123-6 Cont'd

37:20 Ephesians 4:11-16 First keeping in mind that the mystery has two manifestations – Outer: God will display his Glory through His body (Church family) and Inner: As Christ indwells us it makes it possible for Him to live out his life in and through you and me.

To accomplish this Jesus provided His gifts to the church (Not to be confused with the Holy Spirit's gifts). Jesus' gifts were Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers – their job is to equip the Saints (You and I) for the work of the ministry. We are to be the ministers.

Terry makes the point that the punctuation in the King James Version leads one to a wrong understanding about the nature of the ministry. The punctuation in the scripture is not inspired.

So maturity is when all the members function as a unity in faith as ministers – with Christ being manifested in and through each of us.

Eph. 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Eph. 3:7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Col. 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the divine office which was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Jer. 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; 24 but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practice steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the LORD."

1Cor. 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or

free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1Cor. 12:14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single organ, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, 25 that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Eph. 4:11 And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who

is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.