

Ephesians ch 3

To Review: We left off with only two chapter done so a quick review is in order before we go into chapter 3 in more detail.

The Epistle: traditionally written by Paul c. 62 AD at the height of his career while imprisoned in Rome; he has said it all before and so he says in one more time

Modern theologians argue that it is better dated 70-100 AD by a Christian steeped in Paul's thought and able to give a distillation of it. In 2011 a group of scholars voted 39 authentic/43 rejected it/7 were uncertain.. Raymond Brown thought it to be a later hand

Main themes: the unity of all people, despite different cultural background into one in Christ. These are primarily Jews and Greeks in the Church but there are other groups.

Paul visited the city of Ephesus three times in Acts, first at the founding of the Church there for three months; secondly a three year stint, prob after realizing that Ephesus was the doorway to all of central Greece. Third visit was actually to Miletus, where he met with the locals and the elders of Ephesus and said farewell

Recap of Ch 1:

- *God the Father is the source of all blessings through Christ, who was destined to be the instrument of salvation.

- *Jesus blood (sacrifice) is what has saved us

- *we are sealed by the Holy Spirit (possible sacramental ref) but more, the HS confirms what God has done to and with us A seal ratifies a document, a cask of oil or wine, it marks out ownership and value

- *the death and resurrection of Christ is a cosmic event, placing Jesus at the head of all things. Christ has authority and commands all things

Recap of Chapter 2

WE meet the two large communities: Greeks and Jews. As for the Greeks, they were outside of the community of salvation ("tied to the flesh") and were once

doomed but now adopted into the covenant people. The Jews had access to God through the covenant and Torah, but these have now been fulfilled by Christ, making the two peoples one. Key term: reconciliation. We are not simply getting along: we are made one

WE must therefore regret the current rise in anti-semitism; the situation in Gaza is only an excuse for a deeper problem

Ch. 3: What does it mean to serve Christ in the Catholic Church (3:1-13)

*Note: this is an almost direct lift from Colossians 1: 23ff

having said we are justified, saved, what are the consequences?

Paul uses himself as an example of what ministry is

The stewardship of God's grace (you can do much more than you think)

this is not about priests, but all ministries (parent, child, spouse, committee member, educator, catechists, altar servers, EM, etc

diversity of ministry is in Rom 12 and esp. I Corinthians 12 as well

i. The gospel we received comes to us, to the Church, to you by revelations - this term is used twice in the opening verses (vv 2, 5) Individuals do not convert people: God does

ii. It comes to us as a gift, it is not earned, you do not deserve it (7)

humility is necessary in order here to receive it

iii It is something we present, to "make men see" - we do not argue people into belief, apologists is great but of more value to the doubting than the unbeliever (8)

iv: it is done through the Church - and this is a real pain (10)

v. It will bring the servant suffering (13)

vi Christian ministry is possible only through prayer

it is all that makes it effective

vii it is grounded in love (v. 17)

problems: how much time on your knees?

Note the repeated use of the word mystery (vv 3&9)

Mustyeron: used in Greek Drama – the moment that explains all

Ref. Oedipus getting the bad news

Translated in to Latin: Sacramentum – the transforming oath
Section ends in giving glory to God – that is our task