



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

Understanding The Significance Of The Pauline Epistles

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Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

The Essence of Bible Believing Christianity

“God has *one* grand purpose—the glorify Himself in Christ.

This plan involves glory in TWO spheres—the *earthly* and the *heavenly*.”

Miles Sanford

Ephesians 1:10; 3:9-11

Important Points About the *But Now* Period

- The *Body of Christ* is God's agency for the *heavenly places*.
- The operating system today is *Grace*.
- Salvation and blessing are provided to all people on an *equal* basis—
“there is no difference.”
- God's purpose is to exalt Jesus Christ as Head of the government in the heavenly places through the instrumentality of the body of Christ.

The Bible Without Paul?

- Without Paul’s message, ministry and Apostleship the following things would be lost:
 - The Body of Christ (Eph. 3:3-6)
 - The Dispensation of Grace (Eph. 3:1-2)
 - The Gospel of Grace (Acts 20:24, I Cor. 15:3-4)
 - The Temporary Setting Aside of Israel (Rom. 11:11, 25)
 - The Rapture of the Church (I Cor. 15:51-53, I Thess. 4:13-18)
 - The “no difference between Jew and Gentiles” status (Rom. 10:11, Eph. 2:13-18)
 - The Reconciliation of the Heavenly Places and the Church’s role in that process (Col. 1:16-20, Eph. 1:20-23)
- Colossians 1:25—without the mystery revealed to and through the Apostle Paul the word of God would be incomplete.