



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

Understanding The Significance Of The Pauline Epistles, Part 2

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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.

Paul's Epistles

- II Timothy 1:13-14—Paul's epistles are set forth in a manner so as to “godly edifying” which results in true spiritual establishment and maturity.
- I Timothy 1:3-4—“edifying” is to build an “edifice”—a house/structure—of sound doctrine in the “inner man.”
 - Acts 20:32
 - Galatians 4:19
 - Ephesians 3:16; 4:12
- Romans 1:11—Paul wrote to the Romans to end that they “may be established.”
- Romans 16:25—“stablish” same Greek word translated “established” as Rom. 1:11

Paul's Epistles

- Romans 16:25-26—sets forth the edification structure as a three-fold process:
- **My Gospel**—Our *foundation*—Grace
- **The Mystery**—Our *fullness*—Goal
- **The Scriptures of the Prophets**—Our *future*—Glory
- The nine Pauline church epistles are arranged to follow this design in a tri-fold pattern of 4-3-2.
- **Christ and the Cross** (Romans thru Galatians = 4 Books)
- **Christ and the Church** (Ephesians thru Colossians = 3 Books)
- **Christ and the Coming** (I & II Thessalonians = 2 Books)

Cor 10!

Paul's Epistles

- The final four Pauline epistles (I Timothy thru Philemon) are known as the Pastor Epistles. They focus on life in the local church—this is living the Grace Life together with others to do the work of the ministry.
- In the Pastoral Epistles we have: Christ and the *Congregation*: Our *Fellowship* and orientation to *Godliness*.
- There is an underlying arrangement in Paul's epistles related to the order of "*doctrine, reproof, and correction*" found in II Timothy 3:16.

	Cross	Church	Coming
Doctrine:	Romans	Ephesians	I&II Thess.
Reproof:	I&II Cor.	Philippians	Not Needed
Correction :	Galatians	Colossians	Not Needed

Pastoral Epistles

- **I Timothy:** Protect the Doctrine
- **II Timothy:** Preach the Doctrine
- **Titus:** Practice the Doctrine
- **Philemon:** Personalize the Doctrine

The Pauline Plan of Stablishment—Rom. 16:25-

26



Paul's Epistles

- The *Pauline Design for Edification* is so embedded into Paul's epistles that the only way to miss it is to fail to read them altogether.
- *Romans* begins with something “*promised before*” (1:2); *Ephesians* begins with something previously “*hidden*” (3:3-9).
- *Romans* ends with its on reference to “*the mystery*” (16:25); *Ephesians* takes up where *Romans* ends and expounds that “*mystery*” (1:9; 3:5).
- *Romans* begins with Man and his plight as a sinner (1-3)—our lowest point. *Ephesians* begins with God and His purpose through the saved (1:1-14)—our highest glory.

Paul's Epistles

- *Romans* explain Paul's "*My Gospel*;" *Ephesians* expounds the "*Mystery*" program.
- Spiritual Progress is demonstrated:
- *Romans* expounds our co-death and co-resurrection with Christ.
- *Corinthians* and *Galatians* demonstrate our "walk in the Spirit."
- *Ephesians* has us seated in heavenly places (ascended).
- *Philippians* reminds us that our "conversation is in heaven."
- *Colossians* has us "hid with God."
- *Thessalonians* sees us "caught up together with Him."

Works Cited

Jordan, Richard. *Through The Bible In Seven Hours: A Strategic Grasp of the Bible*. Grace Impact Ministries, 2011.