

God's Eternal Purpose

In our radio program, we have been going through **Ephesians 2 and 3** (in between phone calls about other subjects). The first three chapters are designed to emphasize the willingness and ability of God to keep his promises concerning the hope of our calling.

Chapter one praises God for having blessed us with all spiritual blessings, and **chapter two** magnifies the grace of God that saved us, especially the Gentiles. **Chapter three** assures us that this was always God's plan. God made this known by the Spirit to the apostles and prophets to write for the understanding when we read it. God's word is powerful enough to be understood when it is read.

THE CHURCH-GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

That brings us to **Ephesians 3:10-11** that tells us that the church manifests the "*manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" It is evident in this passage that the church was always in God's divine plan of salvation. That is because the church is the group of the saved. **Ephesians 5:23** says that Jesus is the Savior of the body, and **Ephesians 1:22-23** identify the body as the church. Not only that, but **Ephesians 1:23** says that the church is the fullness of Him who fills all in all. It is the culmination of God's purpose, His plan of salvation. The point is to emphasize what Paul prayed in **Ephesians 1:17-18** that we would understand—how special we are to God! Then He prays that we would know by experience this love of Christ that you won't get by merely reading about it (**Eph. 3:14-19**).

A FALSE DOCTRINE

This certainly refutes the fallacious theory of dispensational premillennialism. The dispensationalist claims that Jesus came to the world the first time to set up His kingdom (according to the time Daniel prophesied in **Daniel 9:24-27**), but the Jews rejected Him. So the church was set up as plan B for the Gentiles, and God's timetable in **Daniel 9** stopped advancing). When Jesus returns, the final seven years will advance, and the Lord's earthly kingdom will be set up.

THE TRUTH

The truth is that the Jews excitedly desired for Jesus to be the kind of king they were expecting after He fed the 5000. Carefully read **John 6:15**. Jesus refused to be the kind of king that the Jews and the dispensationalists want Him to be. That is why the Jews rejected Jesus. Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world (**John 18:36**). The church is the spiritual kingdom Jesus promised to build (**Matthew 16:18-19**). We enter the spiritual kingdom by a spiritual birth (**John 3:5**). God translates us from the power of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13). If you are not in His spiritual kingdom, then you are in spiritual darkness. Obey the gospel now and be born of water and the spirit.