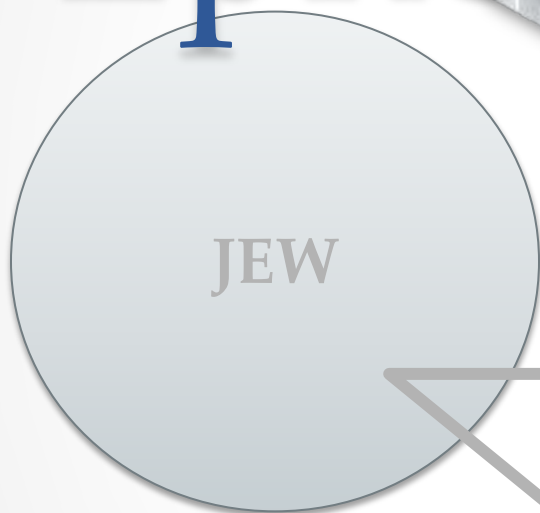
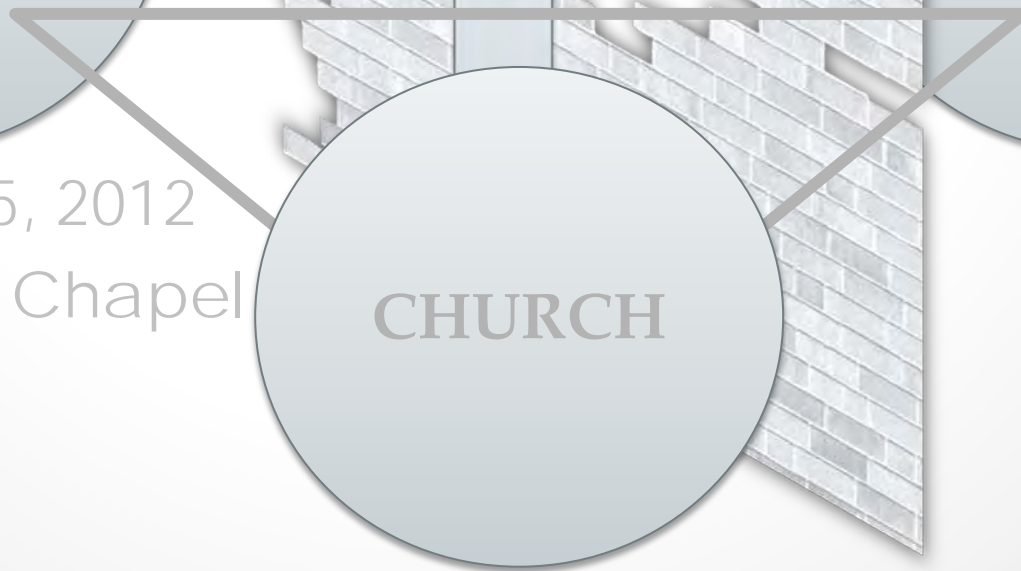


Mystery Revealed

Ephesians 3:1-13



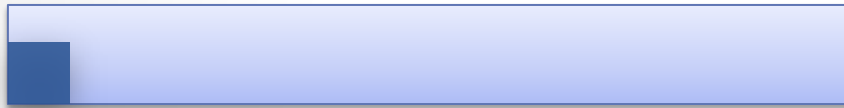
PEACE



November 25, 2012
Grace Gospel Chapel

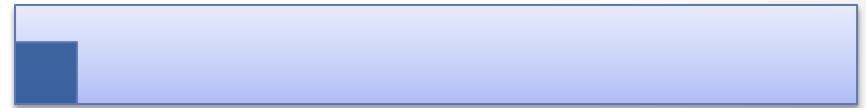
EPHESIANS

Chapters 1-3



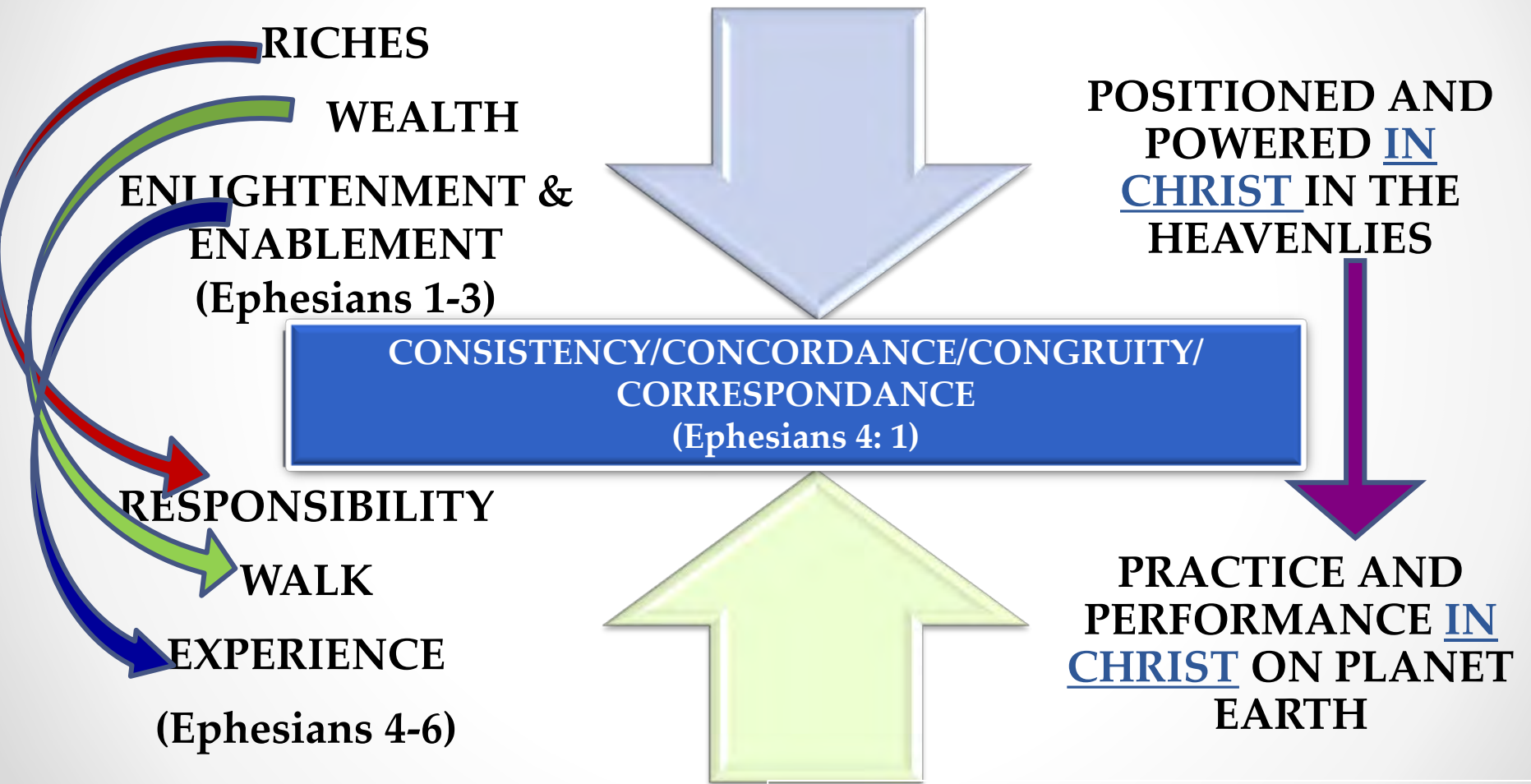
- DOCTRINE
- PRINCIPLES
- BELIEFS

Chapters 4-6



- DUTY
- PRACTICE
- BEHAVIOR

THEMES IN EPHESIANS



© Dr. Sam Kurian, Eric, PA
INDIVIDUAL - / -CORPORATE

Paul's PRISON EPISTLES

- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- Philemon

COLOSSIANS & EPHESIANS

SOME SIMILARITIES:

- CHRIST AND CHURCH
- WRITTEN AROUND THE SAME TIME (BOTH ARE PRISON EPISTLES)
- TRANSMITTED THROUGH SAME MESSENGER--TYCHICUS

Mostly about Christ, the Head

Mostly about Church, the Body

SOME DIFFERENCES:

- **Colossians** is polemical, i.e. written from a argumentative/apologetic/or defensive viewpoint against Gnostic heresy while **Ephesians** is irenic, i.e. peaceful/conciliatory—presenting positive truths.

Colossians is **CHRISTOLOGICAL**—presenting Christ as the **true** (un-reflected as the sun to the moon) “fullness” of the Godhead, while **Ephesians** is **ECCLESIOLOGICAL**—presenting the Church of Christ as the **reflected** (as the moon to the sun) “fullness” of Christ

Purpose of the Letter

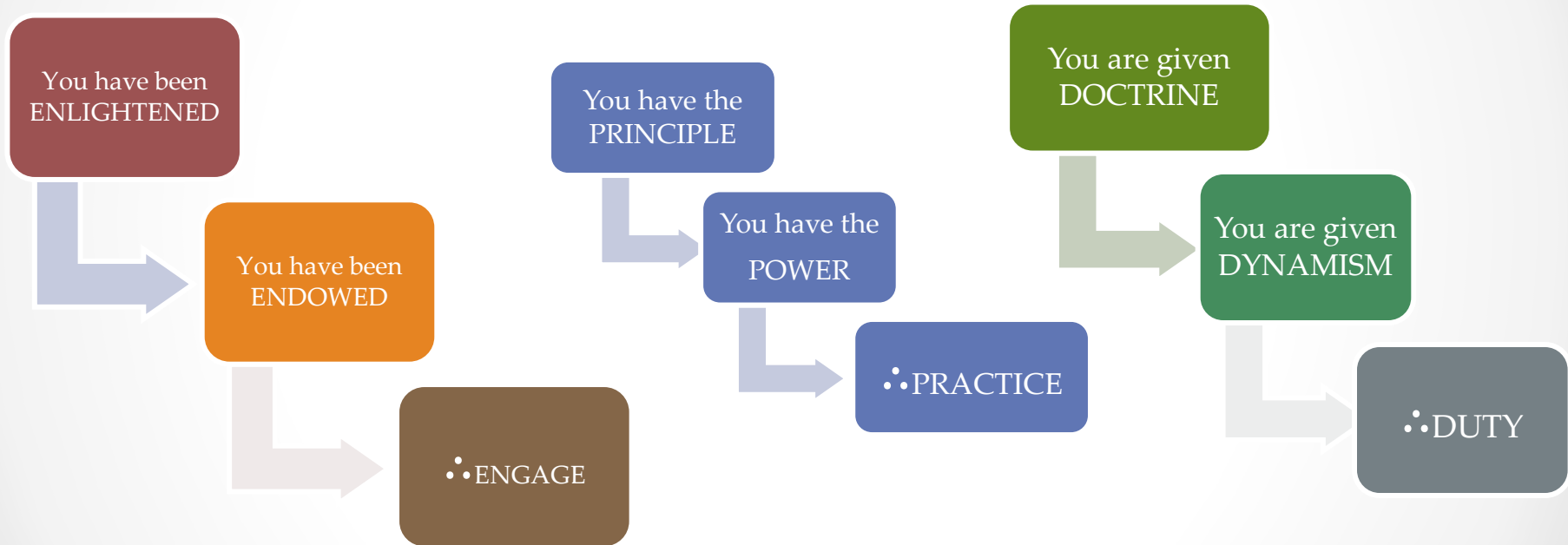
Ephesians 1:17-20—ENLIGHTENMENT

- God would give the readers the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
- That the “eyes of their heart” would be **enlightened**
 - 1. To know **God**
 - 2. To know the **hope** of his calling
 - 3. To know the **riches of God’s glorious inheritance** in the saints
 - 4. To know the **exceeding greatness of his power** towards believers (the power that led to Christ’s physical resurrection, and ascension AND that resurrects individuals from spiritual death to life)

Ephesians 4: 1—EXHORTATION

- That the believers would “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which [they] have been called”

PURPOSE



Ephesians 3

Vs. 1-13

- Parenthesis
- Intermission

Vs. 14-21

- Prayer
- Intercession

Ephesians 3: 1

Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

FOR WHAT REASON?

FOR THE REASON MENTIONED IN EPHESIANS 2 AND ALSO MENTIONED IN CHAPTER 1

DO YOU REMEMBER THE REASON?

The phrase “for this reason” reminds us of Ephesians 1: 15-16

Eph 1:15-16 **For this reason**, because I have heard of your **faith in the Lord Jesus** and your **love toward all the saints**, I do not cease to **give thanks** for you, **remembering you in my prayers**,

Paul has reason to **give thanks** and to **pray** for his readers in Ephesus and environs:

THE REASON is in 2 parts:

***Eph 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

1. Their FAITH

- This confirms that they are recipients of spiritual blessings (**Ephesians 1: 1-14**)

2. Their LOVE TOWARD ALL THE SAINTS

- This confirms that they are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus exhibiting the purposed end of their new creation in good works, namely love towards all the saints (**Ephesians 2: 10**)

OUR WEALTH OUR INHERITANCE



THE TREASURE CHEST opens to “EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS” (Ephesians 1: 3)

THIS INCLUDES THE BLESSINGS (in CHRIST) OF:

- The **FATHER** (Eph. 1: 4-6)
 - Choosing/Selecting those who would be His **ELECT**, before laying the earth's foundation, for the purpose of them being holy and blameless before Him
 - Lovingly setting the Destiny of the **ELECT** in **ADOPTION** as adult sons and therefore heirs (this has to do with being heirs and thus being predestinated for receiving an inheritance—rather than **REGENERATION**, the new birth)—according to the purpose of His will.
 - **ACCEPTING** the elect “in the Beloved”— (Thus accepting us as He would accept His beloved Son) cf. Paul, Philemon & Onesimus [Philemon 1: 17]

Gal 4:4-7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

THE TREASURE CHEST opens to “EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS” (Ephesians 1: 3)

THIS INCLUDES THE BLESSINGS OF:

- The **SON** (Eph. 1: 7-12)
 - In whom we (the ELECT) have REDEMPTION (are purchased from the slavery of sin) through His blood (as the price of purchase)
 - The value of the price places a value on the purchase (1 Peter 1: 18-19)
 - EXTRINSIC versus INTRINSIC value
 - In whom we have FORGIVENESS of our sins, according to the riches of God’s grace,
 - In whom we have obtained an INHERITANCE- (due to the fact that we were indeed destined beforehand by God, who works all things according to the counsel of His will, to fulfill His purpose)



Redemption



“In a Nov. 13 sale that scored a record total for Sotheby’s auction house—\$375,149,000 in one night, beating the previous record by more than \$13 million—a **canvas by the abstract expressionist Mark Rothko led the night with a whopping \$75.1 million sale (including fees). The painting, No. 1 (Royal Red and Blue), went to an anonymous bidder for the second-highest amount of any Rothko in history, far more than the pre-sale estimate of between \$35 and \$50 million.**”

Time Magazine Online Edition, November 14, 2012

Let us illustrate Our Redemption with this painting:

1. This abstract painting by Mark Rothko has some **INTRINSIC VALUE**. When Rothko first painted this, it’s size, its colors, it’s statement carried and still carries an intrinsic value. If we put the price in dollar value, it would very likely be in the thousands of dollars, not in the millions.
2. If someone accidentally poured tar over this painting, you could imagine that the painting would lose much of its intrinsic value. Thankfully no one did.
3. Today someone has put an **EXTRINSIC VALUE** to the painting that the painting likely did not have intrinsically.
4. By placing 75.1 million dollars as the **EXTRINSIC VALUE** of the painting, the **VALUE** of the painting has risen to the price paid,, namely 75.1 million dollars. This is not the **INTRINSIC** worth of the painting—in fact relatively the painting has no intrinsic worth compared to the price paid. **EXTRINSICALLY, however, the value of the price signifies value of purchase and this painting has ACQUIRED tremendous value due to the price paid.**

Redemption



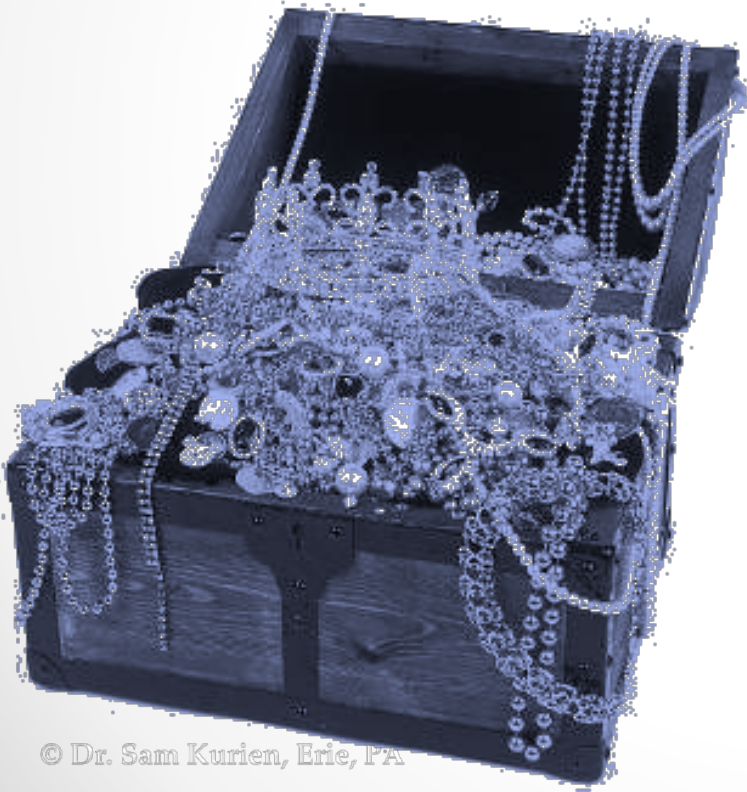
THE REDEMPTION OF HUMANITY:

1. When God created us, He created humanity in His image as male and female. (Genesis 1: 27). This put an **INTRINSIC** value to humanity that was tremendous, greater than any other earthly created entity. The Psalmist stated that humanity is just a little lower than angels and that we are “crowned with glory and honor” (Psalm 8: 5). God Himself surveying this masterpiece of His creation assessed that His creation was “very good” (Genesis 1: 31)
2. However humanity’s **INTRINSIC VALUE** fell when sin entered the human soul (Genesis 3). What was considered “very good” by God had become significantly tainted. It was not only as if tar was poured over this masterpiece, tar bubbled within the masterpiece thus killing it (Romans 5: 12). “Falling short of God’s glory” was akin to going from a worth of billions of dollars to maybe 10 dollars (Romans 3: 12). Our **INTRINSIC** Value is greatly diminished, albeit still present to some extent.
3. When Christ purchased us back, our relative **INTRINSIC** worth was non-existent. However due to the price paid, namely His own precious blood, our value has risen **EXTRINSICALLY** to the value of the price paid (1 Peter 1: 18-19). But He did more, He also , according to the riches of His grace, forgave our sins, removing every stain of the tar that bubbled within. So that now, for those who are His elect, those who believe in Him and know Him, not only has the **ORIGINAL** worth been restored, our worth is far more because of the price paid. We now have **EXTRINSIC** worth equal to the value of the **PRICE** paid, namely Christ’s precious blood and an **INTRINSIC** worth as well. **WE ARE VERY VALUABLE TO GOD**, i.e. **PRICELESS**—so valuable that a price cannot be set!!

THE TREASURE CHEST opens to “EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS” (Ephesians 1: 3)

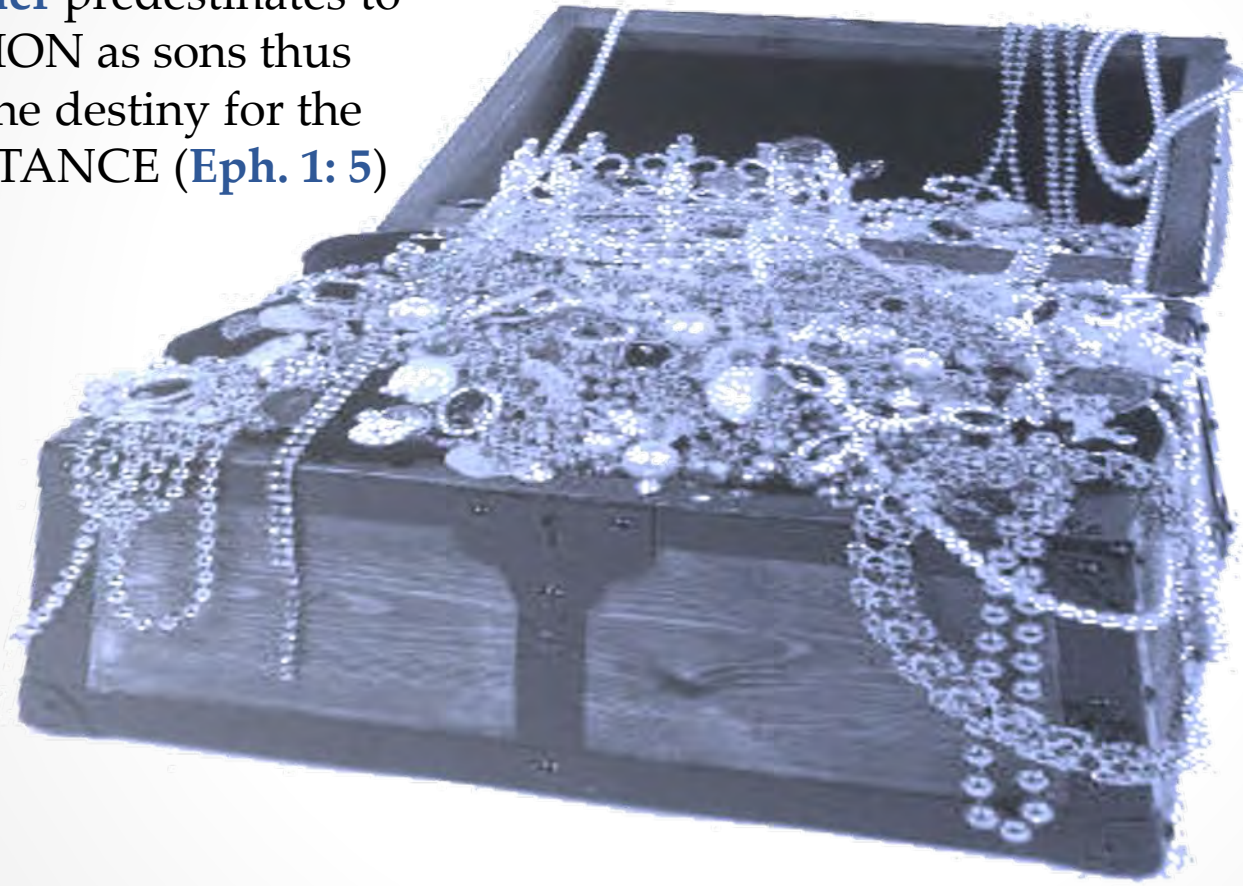
THIS INCLUDES THE BLESSINGS OF:

- The **HOLY SPIRIT** (Eph. 1: 13)
 - With Whom (when we believed the gospel) were Sealed and WHO is the Guarantee (earnest) of our inheritance until we fully acquire possession of it.
 - The Holy Spirit IS the SEAL
 - The Holy Spirit is the Guarantee



INHERITANCE

The **Father** predestinates to ADOPTION as sons thus setting the destiny for the INHERITANCE (**Eph. 1: 5**)



The **Holy Spirit** is the guarantee and earnest of our INHERITANCE until we acquire possession of it. (**Eph. 1: 14**)

The **Son** is the One in whom we have already OBTAINED the INHERITANCE due to the Father's predestination (**Eph. 1: 11**)

Ephesians 3: 1

Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

IT ALSO TAKES US BACK TO CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 2 LETS US SEE WHO WERE WITHOUT CHRIST
AND WHO WE HAVE BECOME IN CHRIST

LET US CONSIDER
EPHESIANS 2 as part of
the “FOR THIS REASON”
of Ephesians 3: 1

The Jews Knew This

THAT THE JEWS WERE

- The 'Circumcision' — ones consecrated for God (Eph 2: 11)
- Part of Israel's Commonwealth (Eph. 2: 12)
- Had the covenants and the promise (Eph. 2: 12)
- Had both hope and God (Eph. 2: 12)
- Considered themselves "near" to God (Eph. 2: 17)

JEWS

CONSIDER THE JEWS

THAT THE GENTILES WERE

- Called “the Uncircumcision” by the Jews (Eph. 2: 11)
- Alienated from Israel’s commonwealth (Eph. 2: 12)

The Gentiles possibly
Knew This

THAT THE GENTILES WERE

- Dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2: 1)
- Among the Sons of Disobedience (Eph. 2: 2-3)
- Children of Wrath (Eph. 2: 3)
- Separated from Christ (Eph. 2: 12)
- Strangers from the covenants of Promise (Eph. 2: 12)
- Hope-less (Eph. 2: 12)
- God-less (Eph. 2: 12)
- “AFAR” OF

The
Gentiles
Did Not
Know This

GENTILES

CONSIDER THE GENTILES

JEWS & GENTILES APPEAR TO HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON

JEWS

A DIVIDING
WALL
of HOSTILITY
exists
instead

GENTILES

The Jews Knew This

THAT THE JEWS WERE

- The 'Circumcision' — ones consecrated for God (Eph 2: 11)
- Part of Israel's Commonwealth (Eph. 2: 12)
- Had the covenants and the promise (Eph. 2: 12)
- Had both hope and God (Eph. 2: 12)
- Considered themselves "near" to God (Eph. 2: 17)

JEWS

THAT THE JEWS WERE

- Among the Sons of Disobedience (Eph 2: 2-3)
- Considered Children of Wrath (Eph. 2: 3)
- Dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2: 5)
- Separated from Christ (Eph. 2: 12)

What The Jews Did
Not Know

**What Neither Jews
nor Gentiles Knew!!!**

JEWS

**THAT BOTH JEWS
AND GENTILES WERE**

- Among the Sons of Disobedience (Eph 2: 2-3)
- Considered Children of Wrath (Eph. 2: 3)
- Dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2: 5)
- Separated from Christ (Eph. 2: 12)

GENTILES

**COMMON
IGNORANCE**

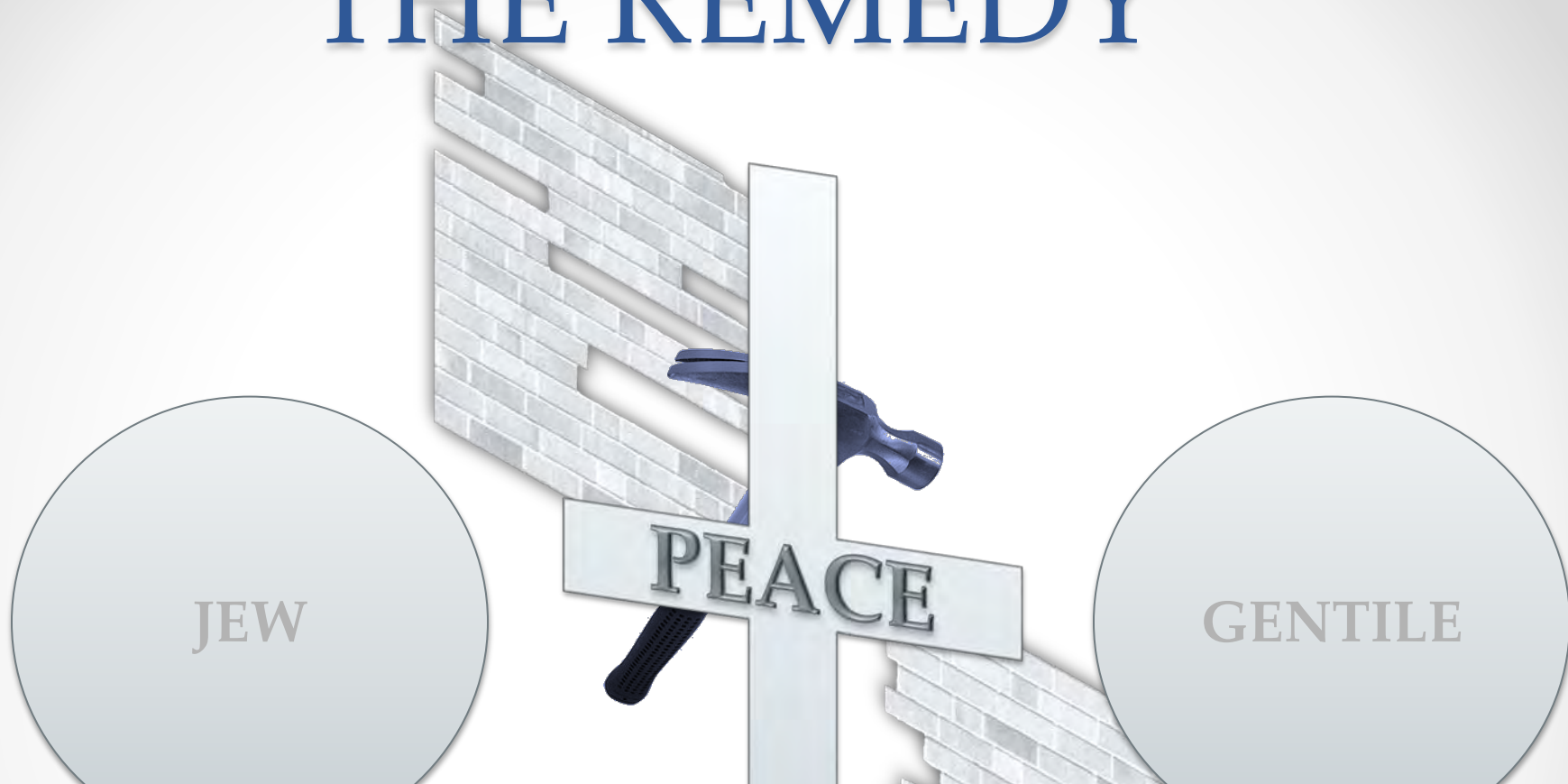
THE REMEDY



THE REMEDY



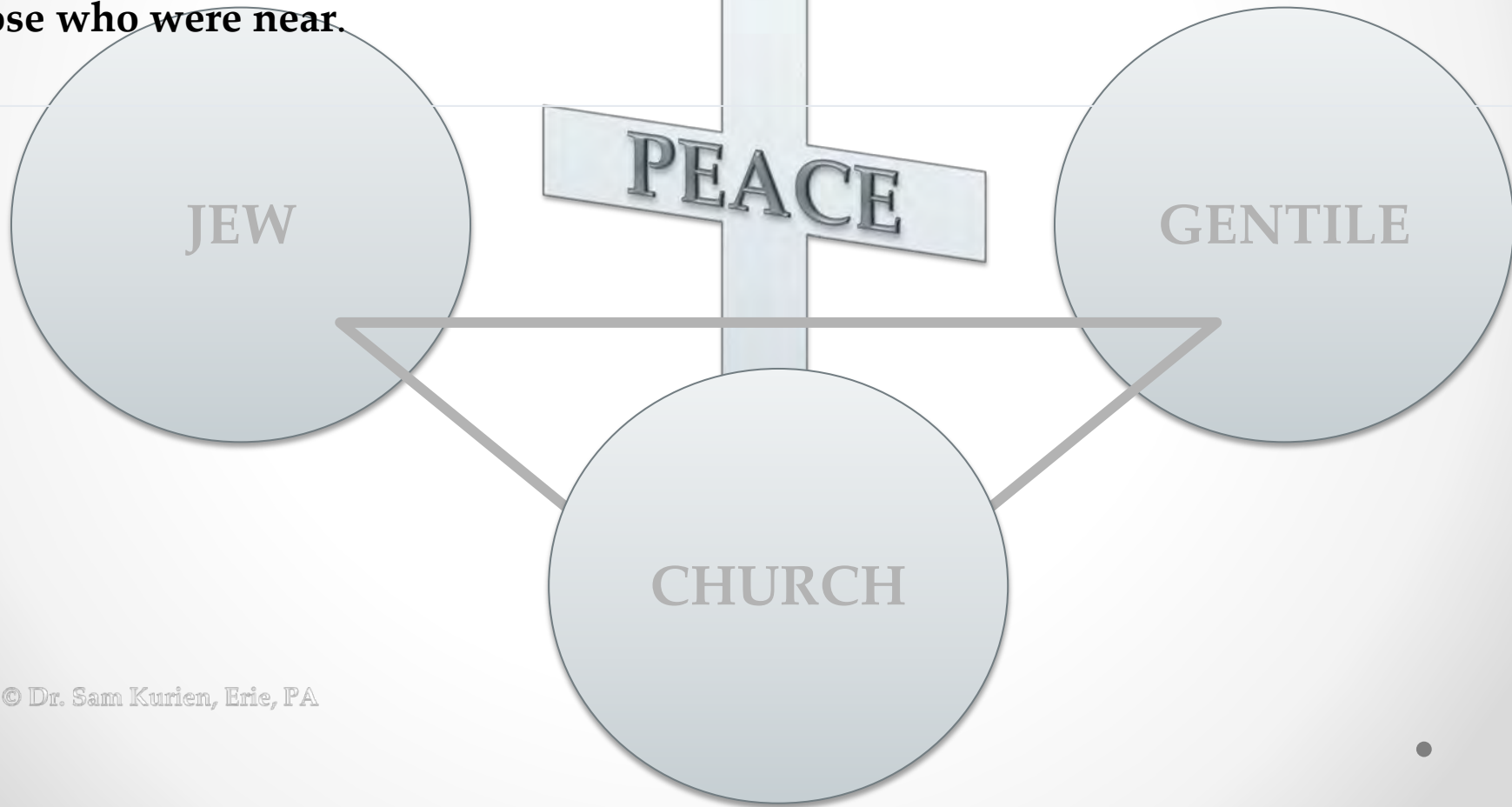
THE REMEDY



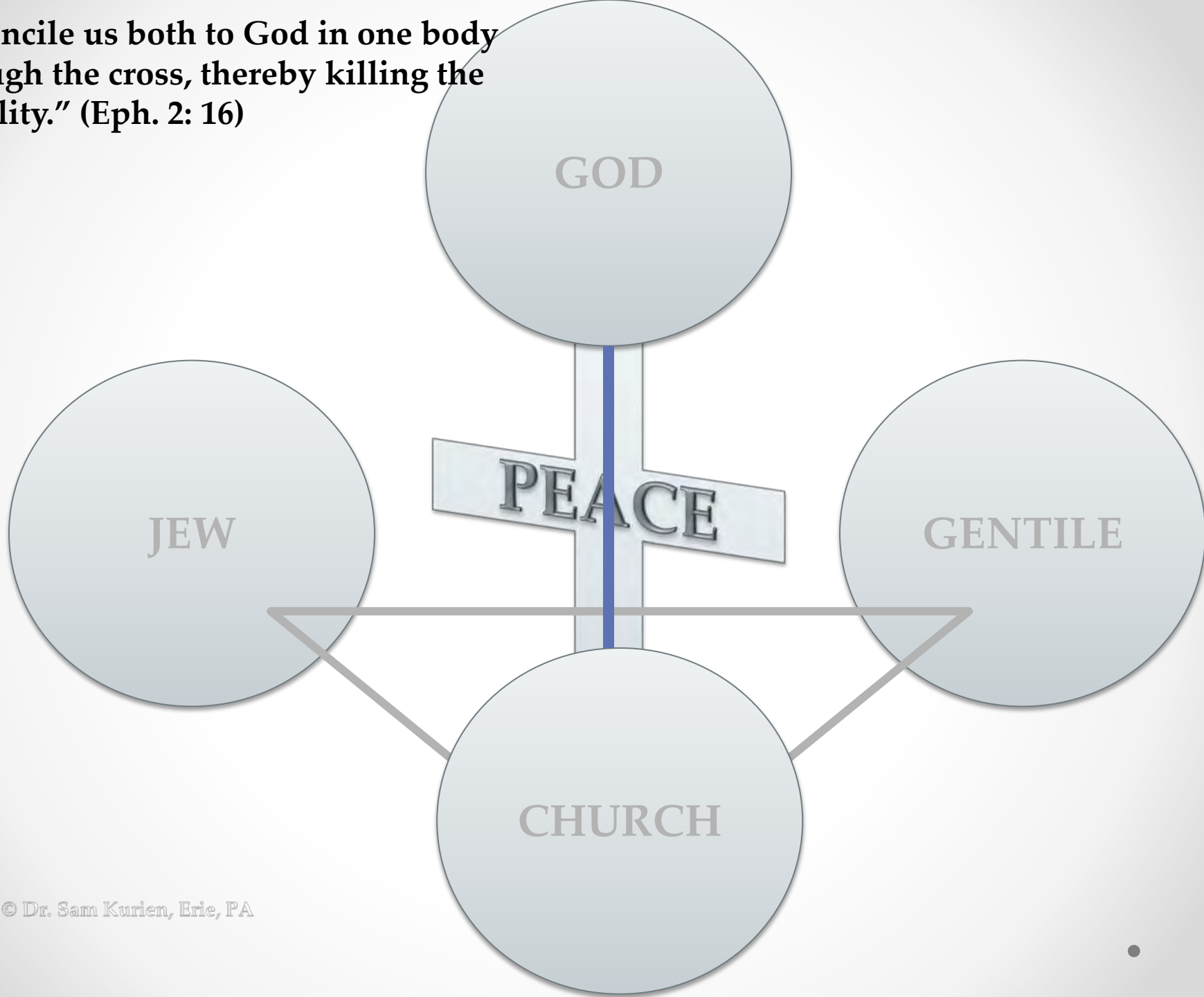
**For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace.
(Ephesians 2: 14-15)**

Ephesians 2:13 -16 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **GOD** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.



“reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.” (Eph. 2: 16)



Ephesians 2: 18-22

For through him we both have **access in one Spirit to the Father.**

So then you are **no longer strangers and aliens**, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints and **members of the household of God**,

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into **a holy temple** in the Lord.

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 3

Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, a **prisoner for Christ Jesus** on behalf of you Gentiles—

Eph 3:13 So I ask you not to lose heart over **what I am suffering** for you, which is your glory.

Eph 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

What triggers the Parenthesis of Ephesians 3: 2-13 is possibly the word “prisoner” in verse 1. Paul carries the idea of his being a prisoner in verse 13 “what I am suffering”. After verse 13, Paul continues the statement of verse 1 which he started with, “for this reason” in verse 14.

which he started with, “for this reason” in verse 14.

“prisoner” in verse 1. Paul carries the idea of his being a prisoner in verse 13 “what I am suffering”. After verse 13, Paul continues the statement of verse 1 which he started with, “for this reason” in verse 14.

Why the Parenthesis?

Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, **a prisoner for Christ Jesus** on behalf of you Gentiles—

Eph 3:13 So I ask you not to lose heart over **what I am suffering** for you, which is your glory.

- Paul wants his readers not to be concerned about trivial things such as “circumstances”
 - I am a prisoner and I am suffering, **BUT I AM A PRISONER, NOT OF ROME BUT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**
 - I am a prisoner and I am suffering, **BUT I DO NOT LOSE HEART OVER A TRIVIAL THING SUCH AS IMPRISONMENT BECAUSE I KNOW WHO THE LORD IS, WHO I AM IN CHRIST, AND WHAT I POSSESS**
- He wants believers to focus on what matters:
 - The Lord
 - Your relationship with Him
 - Who you are to Him—**YOU ARE HIS INHERITANCE**
 - What you have received from Him—**YOU ARE BLESSED WITH INHERITANCE THAT REQUIRED EVEN THE POWER OF RESURRECTION FOR YOU TO RECEIVE**
 - **YOUR GLORY IS NOT IN YOUR ANXIETY AND SADNESS, NOR IS IT IN YOUR FOCUS ON WHAT I AM SUFFERING—YOUR GLORY IS THE VERY OPPOSITE, NOT IN YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE REGARDING EARTHLY CIRCUMSTANCES NOR IN YOUR CONCERN FOR MY IMPROSONMENT. YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS.**
 - **THIS IS SIMILAR TO THE LORD JESUS WHO WOULD NOT ALLOW THE WOMEN FROM JERUSALEM TO MOURN FOR HIM. “MOURN FOR YOURSELVES AND YOUR CHILDREN”—Do not mourn for me.**

Ephesians 3: 1-13

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,

how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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.

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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.

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,

and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Paul's Stewardship (Eph. 3: 2)

God's arrangement concerning the grace of God that was given to the apostle Paul.

Paul defends this administration/dispensation in Galatians chapter 2 mentioning:

- Those who were influential in Jerusalem (the so-called "pillars"), namely James, Peter and John (Galatians 2: 9) added nothing to Paul's own commission (Galatians 2: 6)
- These "pillars" recognized that Paul had been entrusted with the gospel to the Gentiles, even as Peter was sent to the Jews (Galatians 2: 7)
- These influential men extended the "right hand of fellowship" to Paul (Galatians 2: 9)

Eph 3:2-3 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GRACE

MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL

PREACHER TO THE GENTILES

ILLUMINATOR OF THE MYSTERY
TO ALL



Eph 3:8 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,

Under the umbrella of the Stewardship of God's grace, Paul is all of the above.

Eph 3:9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

PAUL'S RESPONSIBILITY

REVELATION
of MYSTERY

GOD

What does “mystery” mean?

A secret hidden in the councils of the Godhead, revealed later: Thus the mystery of the church that was not known to the “sons of men” in previous generations (Ephesians 3: 5) but is now revealed to his “holy apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 3: 5) and also made known to the Apostle Paul (Ephesians 3: 3) includes:

- The Church composed of both former Jewish and gentile believers in Christ,
- They together have become one new man (Ephesians 2: 15), , fellow citizens (Ephesians 2: 19), members of God’s household (Ephesians 2: 19).
- They are also becoming a temple/“dwelling place for God in the Spirit” (Ephesians 2: 21-22)
- That the Gentiles in the church are fellow heirs, fellow members of the same body and fellow partakers of the promise even as Jewish believers (Ephesians 3: 6)

WHAT IS THE MYSTERY?

Eph 3:6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

THE PEACE THAT WAS PROCURED AT THE CROSS and THE FORMATION OF THE NEW MAN, THE BODY, THE BUILDING—composed of JEW and Gentile, IN CHRIST, also changed the status of privilege:

Now the believing GENTILE, as part of the BODY, BUILDING, BRIDE of CHRIST:

1. Are FELLOW HEIRS (thus inheritors)

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

2. Are FELLOW MEMBERS OF ONE BODY

1 Corinthians **12:12-13** 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. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

3. Are FELLOW PARTAKERS OF THE PROMISE

REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY

TO PAUL: (Ephesians 3: 3)

- Directly by GOD—because He is chosen to be a steward

THE BELIEVERS APART FROM THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS:(Ephesians 3: 7).

- By Paul, through his writings, having been made a minister according to the working of His grace, and the working of His power. Thus to us the REVELATION of God is the Scripture, the written document of holy writings (not direct revelation, which has ceased).

TO THE ANGELS (Ephesians 3: 10)

- Via the CHURCH—the Church is God's showcase, the object lesson, with God displaying his multi-colored and various layered wisdom to the angelic world, in what He has accomplished in God's citizens, God's household (family), God's building, Christ's body, Christ's bride (all of these are references to the church)

Eph 3:10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.