

Right Division Soundbites # 14

God's Purpose FROM / God's Purpose From BEFORE

Years ago a list of contrasts, prepared by a 'mid-Acts' dean, was made available for distribution. It was titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth', and suggested as soundbites to create teaching situations. There were 26 separate issues listed. We plan to deal with one topic on Sunday mornings.

For your information, the titles and verses (listed directly below in the box) are exactly as they appear on the dean's chart.

14. This has been God's purpose from the foundation of the world, Matt 25:34	This has been God's purpose from before the foundation of the world, Eph 1:4, 3:1-11
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When the dean says,

"**This** has been God's purpose **from** the foundation of the world,"

he is talking about the issues on the left side of his chart being a 'prophecy program' for the nation Israel, about the kingdom of God on the earth

.... as opposed to "**This**"

the right side of his chart ("from **before** the foundation of the world,")

being a 'mystery program' for (what-he-thinks-is) the body of Christ

(meaning only those saints that have been saved through the apostle PAUL's ministry, and no one else's, even Jesus Christ's)

about these saints spending eternity in heaven.

The dean's first and only verse on the left side is:

Matt 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand,
Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom
 prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

We looked at that verse last week, in its context, which says:

Matt 25:31-33 When the Son of man shall come in his glory,
 and all the holy angels with him,
then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

The saved (sheep) will be separated from the unsaved (goats).

At His judgment throne (seat), Jesus Christ will both reward the faithful with life eternal and send the wicked away into everlasting punishment (Matt 25:35-46, Rev 20:11-15):

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations:
 and he shall **separate** them one from another,
 as a shepherd **divideth** his sheep from the goats:
 33 And he shall set

- the sheep on his right hand,
- but the goats on the left.

The dean did not write it on his paper, but he teaches that during the time that 'this' judgment-reward takes place on earth

ONLY Israel

- are the sheep
- who are blessed of God
- that will inherit this earthly kingdom.

The dean missed **Matt 25:32** in the context that said 'all nations' will be gathered not just Israel.

Furthermore, the sheep and the goats are NOT divided like

Israel is all His sheep

while EVERYBODY ELSE (all other nations) are all the goats.

The dean's other side of the chart means that

- God's **secret 'mystery'** purpose
- from **before the foundation** of the world
- is that saints who have been saved **through PAUL's ministry**
- will go to heaven forever.

Let's examine carefully what the verse **does** say.

- 1) God has chosen us in Christ.
- 2) When were we chosen? Before the foundation of the world.
- 3) For what purpose were we chosen? To be holy
- 4) and unblameable.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

First we will examine 3 of the 4 points, to see that they are taught else-where 'outside' of Paul. We will come back to the issue of **'before' the foundation of the world** a little later.

Saints in **Eph 1:4** are said to be 'chosen':

Eph 1:4 According as **he hath chosen (Greek <eklegomai>)** **us** in him **before the foundation of the world,** **that we should be holy (Greek <hagios>)** **and without blame (Greek <amomos>)** before him in love:

Saints in **Mark 13:20** are also said to be 'chosen'. However, 'mid-Acts-ers' want us to believe there are **2 different kinds** of 'chosen' saints because they don't 'allow' Paul and Jesus to be 'speaking the same thing':

Mark 13:19-20 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for **the elect's sake,** (Rom 8:33, Col 3:12, 2 Tim 2:10, Titus 1:1; Peter wrote to strangers who were 'elect' - 1 Pet 1:1-2) **whom he hath chosen (Greek <eklegomai>),** he hath shortened the days.

Saints in **Eph 1:4** are to be 'holy'.

Saints in **1 Peter 1:15-16** are also to be 'holy'. However, 'mid-Acts-ers' would have us to believe there are **2 different kinds** of 'holy' saints because they don't 'allow' Paul and Peter to be 'speaking the same thing':

1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so **be ye holy (Greek <hagios>)** in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, **Be ye holy; (Greek <hagios>)** for I am holy.

Saints in **Eph 1:4** are to be 'without blame'.

Saints in **Jude 1:24** are also to be 'without blame' as the same Greek word <amomos> is translated 'faultless'. However, 'mid-Acts-ers' would have us to believe there are **2 different kinds** of 'unblamable' saints because they don't 'allow' Paul and Jude to be 'speaking the same thing':

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you **faultless (Greek <amomos>)** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Next, we'll look at the dean's other passage, which says **NOTHING** at all about the issue of **'BEFORE' the foundation of the world:**

Eph 3:1-11 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,
 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**) (They did not see it clearly [1 Pet 1:9-12] as we do now):
 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, **as it is now revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:
 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; (Next is a phrase that specifically says **'FROM' the beginning of the world**, which according to the dean's method of division on this issue 'BETTER FITS' on the OTHER side of his chart! Too bad for him!):
 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of **the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
 11 According to **the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:**

God had a purpose in Christ that was not fully revealed nor understood

until Jesus Christ actually 'appeared' then it was made manifest:

2 Tim 1:8-11 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to his own purpose and grace,**

which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 **But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ,** who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Before we go on, let's compare **Luke 8:10, Mark 4:11, and Matt 13:11**

.... to see the **INTER-CHANGE of words on these 2 points:**

1) The same Greek word <musterion> is translated

"the mystery" **singular** in Mark 4:11

"the mysteries" **plural** in Luke 8:10 **and** Matt 13:11,

2) Luke 8:10 **and** Mark 4:11 say "the kingdom of **God**"

Matt 13:11 says "the kingdom of **heaven**"

thus showing "the mystery" or "the mysteries" are inter-changable

and "the kingdom of God" or "the kingdom of heaven" are also the same:

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God:** but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Mark 4:11 And he said unto them,

Unto you it is given to know **the mystery of the kingdom of God:**

but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Matt 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because

it is given unto you to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,** but to them it is not given.

In that context when our Saviour Jesus Christ 'appeared' on earth to accomplish God's purpose that was planned before the world began (as we read in 2 Tim 1:9-10) He spoke to the multitude in parables but He explained (made manifest) God's secrets (mysteries) to 'they that were about Him' with His 12 disciples (Mark 4:10):

Matt 13:34-35 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 **That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.**

The secret things Jesus spoke were like the secret things Paul spoke:

Rom 16:25-27 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and **the preaching of Jesus Christ,**

according to the revelation **of the mystery (Greek <musterion>), which was kept secret since the world began,**

26 **But now is made manifest,** and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Paul specifically named, not only himself, but also Apollos and PETER, as God's servants (ministers) who were to be faithful with God's mystery:

1 Cor 3:22-23, 4:1-2 Whether **Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas,** or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; 23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

1 Cor 4:1-2 Let a man so account of **us (Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas),** as **of the ministers (also translated 'servants')** of Christ, and stewards **of the mysteries (Greek <musterion>) of God.**

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Throughout history, God showed His secret to His servants:

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but **he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

God will conclude His mystery at the last trump (1 Cor 15:51-52) including the resurrection of the dead just as He told His servants He would:

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of **the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound**, (that is, the last trump 'mystery' in 1 Cor 15:51-52) **the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

Jesus had glory with God the Father BEFORE the world was:

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with **the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

God the Father loved His Son BEFORE the world was founded:

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for **thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.**

The crucifixion of the Lord was ordained of God BEFORE the world:

1 Cor 2:6-8 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

7 But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:**

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have **crucified the Lord of glory.**

God promised **eternal life in Christ** BEFORE the world began. It was 'manifested' (shown) when Christ 'appeared' (came). Paul preached it:

Titus 1:1-3 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

2 In hope of **eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;**

3 **But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching,** which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; (God committed the message to Paul to go to the Gentile nations.)

John also preached **eternal life in Christ** promised BEFORE the world:

1 John 2:25 And **this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.**

1 John 5:11 And this is the record,
that **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**

Peter preached **redemption in Christ** that was clearly seen when Jesus came and died and rose. It was 'manifested in time' when it happened and was preached. But God planned it BEFORE the foundation of the world:

1 Peter 1:18-21 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But **with the precious blood of Christ,**

as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 **Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**

21 Who by him do believe in God, that **raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory;** that your faith and hope might be in God.

The scripture also shows

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, slain FROM the foundation of the world

.... and names of saints, recorded in the Lamb's book of life

FROM the foundation of the world:

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, **whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, **whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,** when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Is YOUR name written there? (also see Exo 32:32; Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5, 20:12-15, 21:27, 22:19; Psa 56:8, 139:16) God knows do you?

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless **the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.**

(also see 2 Thess 2:13-14, 1 Peter 1:1-2, 2 Tim 2:10)

And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

The dean, following the Cunning Royal Jester, makes **yet another issue of DIVISION (#14) between the words 'BEFORE' and 'FROM'**

regarding the foundation of the world

in order to build **a false paradigm** of 2 different programs of God

for 2 different peoples of God

to inherit 2 different places of God.

I would rather enjoy my rest

in the wonderful salvation God provided in Christ

'BEFORE' and 'FROM' the foundation of the world:

Heb 4:3, 8-9 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although **the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 **There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.**

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"