

# **The Mystery of Grace**

**Ephesians 3:1-13**

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**For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of 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...**

## **Ephesians 3:1-13, cont.**

**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...**

## **Ephesians 3:1-13, cont.**

**...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.**

# Mystery of Grace

- **Mystery of the depth of our sinfulness**
- **Mystery of the height of our redemption**
- ***Mysterion* – meaning not something difficult to understand, but something entirely hidden.**
- **“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” (Eph. 3:6).**

# **1. The Stewardship of Grace, 3:1-6**

**“...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” (Eph. 3:2-5).**

# Why was it hidden?

- **The Holiness of Israel: “For I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples that you should be mine” (Lev. 20:26).**
- **The Promises of God to Israel: “If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase...”**
- **The Uniqueness of Israel: “He declares His Word to Jacob... He has not dealt thus with any other nation” (Psalm 147:19-20).**

# **Grace Came through Christ Jesus**

**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:14-18).**



# What this means for us

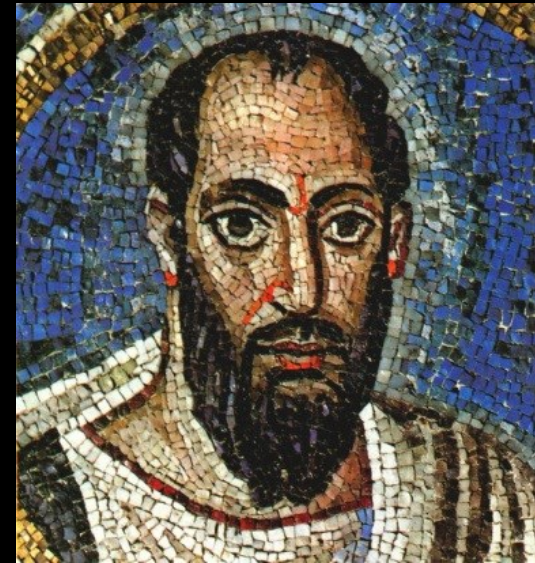
- **Everyone is equal in the church.**
- **We are all here by grace and continue by grace.**
- **An older member is not more important than a newer member.**
- **“I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor” (John 4:38).**
- **Do not disenfranchise your brother in Christ.**

## **2. A Servant of the Gospel, 3:7-9**

**“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” (Eph. 3:7-9)**

# Paul

- **A Persecutor of the Church**
  - Tarsus - Pharisee - Radical
  - Damascus
- **From Persecutor to Christian**
  - Arabian Desert - Jerusalem
  - Tarsus - 14 years
- **From Christian to Apostle**
  - Antioch - To the Uttermost Parts of the World



### **3. The Showing of God's Glory, 3:10-13**

- “so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10).**
- To reveal His true nature to the faithful angels who are “ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who inherit salvation” (Heb. 1:14).**
- “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Col. 2:15).**

# And to the Redeemed

- “...raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6-7).
- “They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever” (Rev. 22:4-5).