

6 – THE MYSTERY (EPHESIANS 3:1-13)

I. A Prisoner of Christ (Ephesians 3:1)

- The statement “For this reason” introduces Paul’s next topic.
- It reflects on his discussion of our salvation and the unity between Jew and Gentile in Christ.
- Paul points out that he was a prisoner of Jesus Christ for his readers, the Gentiles.

II. The Revelation (Ephesians 3:2-7)

A. The Stewardship of Grace (Ephesians 3:2)

- Paul points out that they had already heard of the stewardship of grace given to him.
- This stewardship of grace was given to him for their sakes.

B. The Mystery Revealed (3:3-6)

- Paul points out that the Lord revealed to him the mystery.
- He briefly mentioned this mystery in Ephesians 1:9.
- When they read this, they will understand his knowledge concerning the mystery in Christ.
- In the ages prior to theirs, the Lord did not reveal this mystery to men.
- Now, the Holy Spirit is revealing the mystery to the apostles and New Testament prophets.
- This mystery concerns certain truths that have become a reality for Gentile believers.
- Gentile believers are fellow heirs, of the same body and partakers of Christ’s promise.

C. Paul’s Calling (Ephesians 3:7)

- It is because of the revelation of this mystery that Paul became a minister.
- It was according to gift of the grace of God and effective working of God’s power.

III. The Responsibility (Ephesians 3:8-13)

A. Paul’s Self-Assessment (Ephesians 3:8a)

- Reflecting on himself, Paul describes himself as less than the least of all the saints.

B. The Responsibility Described (Ephesians 3:8b-12)

A Sure Foundation: The Letter To The Ephesians

- Grace was given to him in order to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.
- He was to make plain the administration of the mystery which was hidden from the beginning.
- The mystery was hidden from the beginning of time in God, who created all things in Christ.
- The mystery was hidden so that it would be revealed to the church and those in heavenly places.
- The mystery was hidden and revealed according to the God's purpose revealed in Christ.
- It is in Christ, that believers have boldness and confident access through faith in Christ.

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

C. Paul's Request (Ephesians 3:13)

- Paul asks his readers to not lose heart for him as he experiences tribulations for their sake.
- The tribulations that he was experiencing was for their glory.
- The phrase "for their glory" refers to he meeting them as he was a prisoner headed to Rome.