

Ephesians: Blessed Beyond Belief

To Build up the Body

Ephesians 3:1-13 Expanding on the mystery: corporate identity

- 1 For this reason
 I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus
 on behalf of you Gentiles—
- 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace
 that was given to me for you,
 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,
 as I have written briefly.
 4 When you read this,
 you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
 5 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.
- 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.
 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister,
 according to the gift of God’s grace,
 which was given me
 by to working of his power.
- 8 To me, though the very least of all saints,
 this grace was given,
 to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery
 hidden for ages in God who created all things,
 10 so that through the church
 the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known
 to the rulers
 and the authorities
 in the heavenly places.
- 11 This was according to the eternal purpose
 that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 12 in whom we have boldness
 and access with confidence
 through our faith in him.
- 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering
 for you,
 which is your glory. (ESV)

Review

- 1:1–3:21 Positional Unity of the Church
- 1:1-23 God's (life insurance) plan and benefits
 - 1:1-2 A circular letter to those "in Christ"
 - 1:3-14 Believers have: **Every spiritual blessing—to the praise of His glory**
 - The plan, provision and protection of Salvation*
 - A reminder of the great things God has done for the individual believer*
 - WOW**—it is all about God
 - All we have in salvation is for His praise and glory
 - 1:15-23 Prayer for insight to truly know God
 - The prayer for those who have everything**—know God better
- 2:1–3:21 Steps towards fulfilling God's plan
 - 2:1-10 God's plan (1:3-14) applied to individuals
 - 2:11-22 New Corporate identity
 - We who were hopeless, separated from God, His promises and His people—have been brought near into a new entity—the Church.

Exposition

- I. Circular letter to those who are "in Christ" 1:1-2
- II. Praise to God: The believer's position in Christ to the Praise of His Glory 1:3-14
- III. Thanksgiving and Prayer 1:15-23
- IV. God's plan applied individually 2:1-10
- V. God's plan applied corporately 2:11-22
- VI. Expanding on the mystery: corporate identity 3:1-13
 - Paul's relationship to the mystery of the new community—A recipient of grace 3:1-13
 - God is the sources of the mystery
 - A. The Content of the mystery revealed to Paul—by grace 3:1-7
 - 1. Paul's prayer—interrupted 3:1
 - 2. Paul's responsibility 3:2
 - 3. When and to whom the mystery was revealed 3:3-5
 - 4. Content of the mystery 3:6
 - 5. (Hinge) Summary: Paul a servant of God's grace 3:7
 - B. The Proclamation the Mystery 3:8-13
 - The Gracious Ministry to proclaim the mystery
 - 1. Paul's role 3:8-9
 - 2. God's goal, our purpose 3:10
 - 3. Our benefits 3:11-12
 - 4. Paul's perspective 3:13

Application

What God what's to accomplish through the church is universal and cosmic in nature
When God gives a task/mission He provides the enablement