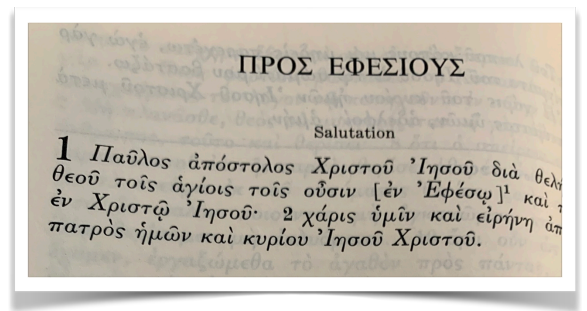


Paul's Letter to the

CHURCH AT EPHESUS



Ephesians 3

(EPHESIANS 3:1-21)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ² if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; ³ that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow

The Mystery of the Gospel

- ❖ For which reason? (see the context)
- ❖ In what way was Paul a prisoner of Christ Jesus?
 - ❖ A prisoner for whose sake? Explain...
 - ❖ What is a stewardship?
 - ❖ What was **Paul's** stewardship?
 - ❖ For whose sake?
- ❖ What is a mystery?
 - ❖ When and what had Paul written previously regarding the revelation of the mystery?
 - ❖ When Paul says, "By referring to this, when you read you can understand..." what does this say to those who would argue that the Bible is too hard to understand?
 - ❖ What does this say about the importance of reading God's word?
- ❖ Did previous generations know the answer to this mystery?
 - ❖ Specifically what was the meaning of this mystery?
 - ❖ fellow heirs
 - ❖ fellow members of the body
 - ❖ fellow partakers of the promise in Christ

members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, ⁷ of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸ To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³ Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my

- ❖ How was this done? (end of v. 6)
- ❖ What is another word for minister?
- ❖ How was Paul made such a minister?
- ❖ What sort of power do you think Paul is referring to here?
- ❖ Why does he consider himself the least of all saints?
- ❖ Do we sometimes feel unworthy to share the good news because of our past?
- ❖ What does "unfathomable" mean?
- ❖ What does the word "administration" mean in this context?
- ❖ If this is what the almighty God's plan has been all along, what right did the Jews have to oppose it?
- ❖ How is God making known His manifold wisdom?
- ❖ Who are these ruler and authorities in the heavenly places?
- ❖ Over who did these rulers and authorities believe they had power over?
- ❖ But now in the church?
- ❖ How long has God been planning this?
- ❖ Who was the initiator of this plan?
- ❖ And now even Gentiles can have boldness before God
- ❖ How?
- ❖ Since this is God's plan, and Paul's part in it, how should the Ephesian church feel?

tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, **16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church

- ❖ For what reason does Paul bow his knees before the Father?
 - ❖ Given the context of this letter to the Ephesians (especially chapters 2 and 3), why is Paul mentioning that every family in heaven and earth derives its name from the Lord?
- ❖ How rich is God in glory? (A silly question, I know, but Paul is trying to make a point here)
- ❖ How does the Spirit strengthen us in the inner man?
 - ❖ In what special way does Paul pray that the Spirit might strengthen us in the inner man? (see v. 17)
- ❖ What would it mean to have Christ dwell in our hearts through faith?
- ❖ What does it mean to be rooted and grounded in love?
 - ❖ (A silly question, but...) Does love have a dimension?
 - ❖ What does it mean, then to try to comprehend the width of God's love?
 - ❖ What does it mean, then to try to comprehend the length of God's love?
 - ❖ What does it mean, then to try to comprehend the height of God's love?
 - ❖ What does it mean, then to try to comprehend the depth of God's love?
- ❖ Why is Paul praying (given the Ephesian context) that they comprehend this love of Christ, which surpasses and knowledge
- ❖ What will happen, when we know the love Christ? (v. 19b)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- ❖ Another doxology
- ❖ How much is God able to do?
- ❖ How much can you ask for?
- ❖ How much can you think or imagine?
- ❖ What power is Paul referring to that works within us?
- ❖ What appears to be one of the primary jobs of the church?
- ❖ How do we do that?