

## **The Mystery** (Ephesians 3:1-13)

### **The Mystery 1-6**

*For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.<sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.*

For this reason

Prisoner on their behalf

*Wherever St. Paul went there was a riot. Wherever I go, they serve tea. (N.T. Wright)*

Stewardship

Revelation

*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.*

Fellow Heirs

Fellow Members

Fellow Partakers

*There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.<sup>29</sup> And now that you belong to*

*Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you. Gal 3:28-29 NLT*

### **The Ministry 7-13**

*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. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.*

#### **Minister**

*By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. Eph 3:7 NLT*

#### **Unsearchable riches of Christ**

*Paul is saying picturesquely that the riches in Christ that are made known by the Gospel are greater than we can ever track down or search out. (Morris)*

*God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph 3:10-11 NLT*

#### **Manifold wisdom.**

#### **Rulers and authorities**

God's eternal purpose

*...is so grand, so far reaching, so unexpected, that the ordinary word for "purpose" will not do. God is doing something far greater than anything we see in human purposes. (Morris)*

Confidence

## **Application**

### **Embrace the mystery!**

No more fear

No more shame

*We are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. Col 1:22*

No more trying to earn His approval

No more feelings of inferiority

### **Embrace the Ministry!**

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Eph 2: 10 NLT.*

*We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips. So we tenderly plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Turn back to God and be reconciled to him." II Cor 5:20 TPT*

Where does God want to use you as his ambassador?

*How can I better embrace the mystery?*

*How can I better embrace the ministry God has called me to?*