

March 14, 2021
Ephesians 3:1-13

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

I. Introduction:

If you know the why, you can handle the what

II. Reasons for Paul's Imprisonment:

"For this reason, I Paul, **the prisoner** of Christ Jesus for the sake of the Gentiles." Ephesians 3:1

- A. The Logical Reason
- B. The Racial Reason
- C. The Theological Reason

III. The Mystery of the Church

- A. The Revelation of the Mystery: Ephesians 3:2-6

"Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, [3] that is, **the mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. [4] In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into **the mystery of Christ**, [5] which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. [6] **This mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

B. The Declaration of the Mystery: Ephesians 3:7-10

“I became a **servant** of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. [8] Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: **to preach to the Gentiles** the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] **and to make plain to everyone** the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. [10] His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,”

1. Paul a servant of Grace and Humility empowered by God.
2. Paul was given grace to:
 - a. Preach to the Gentiles
 - b. Proclaim the Mystery

C. The Application of the Mystery: Ephesians 3:11-13

1. The Message has eternal roots.

“according to his **eternal purpose** which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Vs. 11

2. The roots give us a secure relationship with the Father.

“In Him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Vs. 12

3. The Relationship guards us from discouragement.

“I ask you, therefore, **do not be discouraged** because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. Vs. 13