



Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

**Mystery Revealed**

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



## Last Week – One in Christ

- Jews & Gentiles – large divide (us –them)
  - religious, social & cultural, bloodlines
- In Christ – 2 become 1 – no division
  - no longer strangers and aliens
  - fellow citizens, members of God's household
- New Foundation
  - Christ the cornerstone
  - apostles and prophets – teach & equip

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



3 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for 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

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



<sup>7</sup> 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.

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<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.

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



## 1. Personal for Paul

- called to bring gospel to Gentiles (Acts 15, Galatians 2:1-10, Rom.15:15-16)

- a) invested personally

- prisoner for you – 3:1

- worth suffering for – 3:13

- b) commissioned by God for this

- entrusted with the secret – 3 (revealed)

- given a charge of stewardship - 2

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



- made a minister of this gospel – 7
- given grace and power to communicate – 8
- c) chosen by God not by qualifications
  - least of the saints – vs.8

## 2. The Mystery

- a) Has Been Hidden vs.5
  - till now God's action and revelation all centered on his chosen through Abraham

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- Gen. 12:1-3 “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- Isaiah 49:6 “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



b) clearly revealed – vs.6

- Gentiles are included in God's plan

- i) fellow heirs

- ii) members of the same body

- iii) partakers of the promise

c) communicated to you

- i) read and perceive

- ii) minister – preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to all

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- iii) bring to light what was hidden vs.9
  - plan of God being revealed

## 3. The Purpose vs.10-13

- so that.....

### a) Manifold Wisdom of God made Known

- God is active and has a plan
- will be seen for all to witness
- rulers and authorities in heavenly places
- angels good and fallen

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## b) Purpose of God be carried out

- plan that was hidden now revealed
- Christ's work makes this possible
- this new people, all nations, are his chosen method and vehicle to show his wisdom

## c) The Church is to be that Vehicle

- granted boldness – approach the holy God
- granted access – welcomed to approach
- granted confidence – power of God shown

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## So What?

### 1. Personal for Us

- been revealed to us – stewards of this truth
- great commission mandate
- called to be a part of God's plan – revealed
- \* know from Paul – this could be uncomfortable and disrupt life. Ask God to awaken in you his call to be a steward of this amazing truth, and the courage to walk in that

# Ephesians: 3:1-13



## 2. Mystery has been Revealed

- we have all been invited to become:
  - fellow heirs, members of one body, partakers of the promise of God
- the unsearchable riches of Christ will be revealed for an eternity – you have been provided for.
- stewardship has been passed on to you – how are you now participating in that being taken to others?

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## 3. The Critical Importance of the Church

- we are reconciled to God through Christ
- we are called to be reconciled to one another
- we are commissioned to participate in bringing that same message and reality to our world.
  - none have been excluded – race, gender, etc
- God is revealing his *manifold wisdom* through his church, are you engaged in that, apathetic about that, or active in tearing it down?