

- I) **V1-7 INTRO: For this reason, I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles**
- II) **The first thirteen verses are an introduction to a prayer that Paul prays for them**  
He prefaces his prayer with a reminder to them concerning what they have in Jesus  
He also wants them to realize that God's grace has placed them in His Body, the church
- III) **These verses are intended to re-emphasize what he has already written to them**  
This would help them to understand the things that he was about to pray for
- IV) **He had been saying that the Jew and Gentile have been made one in Christ**  
Because of this, there is no longer any spiritual distinction made between them  
Eph 2:13 He wrote In Christ Jesus you who once were *far off* have been *brought near* by the blood of Jesus Christ  
Eph 2:19 he said You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but *fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God*
- V) **Making such a claim was immense because Jews had no fellowship with Gentiles**
- VI) **Acts 21 records how Paul had been accused of bringing Gentiles into the temple**  
To do such a thing was defiling the temple and was punishable by death
- VII) **In 1871 two archaeologists, Clermont and Ganneau, discovered what is known as the Soreg Inscription, a sign warning non-Jews to keep out of the Temple area**  
No foreigner is to enter the barriers surrounding the sanctuary. He who is caught will have himself to blame for his death which will follow.
- VIII) **Ac 21:31 says that they were seeking to kill him, but Paul was rescued by soldiers**  
Ac 21:35 When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.
- IX) **Luke records how Paul had asked permission to speak to the mob, and it was granted**

He began to address them in Hebrew, and it calmed them down for a while

X) As he made his defense, he began giving his testimony and they quietly listened

When he got to the place where he said he was sent to the Gentiles, things changed

Ac 22:22 They listened to him *up to this statement*, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a man from the earth, for *he should not be allowed to live!*"

XI) The separation was so great that Paul had to make it clear: *Gentiles* have access to God

Eph 1:5 we have been adopted as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself  
Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the

Father

I) This blessed revelation is so wonderful that Paul must remind them of what he said

II) V1 He begins this chapter with the words "For this reason..."

As mentioned, this is the introduction to a prayer that he prays beginning in V14

III) Before he prays, he reminds the Ephesians of his *ministry credentials*  
He also reminds them of some of the spiritual truths he has already shared

IV) QUESTION: Why is it necessary to repeat himself: Did they not get it the first time

THE FACT IS: For us to learn, we often must hear some things many times

V) This is because we do not always understand what we are hearing the first time

Spiritual truths are often revealed slowly, and repeated often

VI) The most obvious spiritual revelation relates to Jesus' death and resurrection

VII) From the beginning of His ministry, He spoke concerning these many times

Jn 2:19 Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up

Mt 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of

the earth.

VIII) After Peter's great confession, Jesus began sharing more about the resurrection

Mt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Mt 17:22-23 and 20:17-19 repeat this lesson to His men

Jn 10:17 My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

IX) Jesus repeated this single truth numerous times, yet they still misunderstood  
Some things are not understood the first time you hear them  
One of the responsibilities of a teacher is to faithfully remind people of God's truths

X) This is most effectively done through the faithful teaching of the Word of God  
2 Pe 1:12-15 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

XI) V1 WITH THIS IN MIND: Paul reminds them of his ministry credentials and teaching

He begins by identifying himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ

I) Paul had been placed in prison by Rome  
Even though Rome imprisoned him, he did not see himself as a prisoner of Rome

II) Paul refers to himself as a *prisoner of Jesus*, not a prisoner of Rome  
Though I am in jail, yet I am still free in Christ because God is in control of my life

2 Ti 2:8-9 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. *But God's word is not chained.*

III) Though he was in jail, he saw this as an opportunity to continue ministering the Word

Phil 1:12-13 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it

has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are *in Christ*

IV) V1 Paul was a prisoner of Jesus *for the Gentiles*

He was preaching the gospel to Gentiles because this was his ministry calling

Gal 2:7 the gospel for the uncircumcised has been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

V) V2 If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to

Dispensation: Managing a household, business, or other concern for someone else

This included everything: planting, harvesting, storing; preparing meals, bookkeeping

VI) Every believer is a steward of the grace of God

We take care of our gifts, ministries, skills, knowledge and even opportunities given us

1 Pe 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

VII) V2 This dispensation (stewardship) was *given* to Paul and not sought by him.

This reminds them of his calling into the ministry

1 Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, *putting me into the ministry*

VIII) V3 How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written

Revelation: God used this mode to communicate this truth to me

IX) It did not come from other men and is not the wisdom of men but by the Spirit

Gal 1:12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, *I received it by revelation* from Jesus Christ.

1 Co 2:10 But God *revealed it to us by the Spirit*. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God

I) V3 By revelation He made known to me the *mystery*

Mystery: The secrets of God, hidden from the ungodly but revealed to the godly

II) God had revealed a mystery to Paul: Jew and Gentile were one in Christ

This mystery was, up until the Church Age, hidden from men

**THE MYSTERY: That the gospel would give Gentiles access to God**

III) V3-4 As I have briefly written already by which when you read you may understand my

This refers to what he has already written in ch 1:9-10 and 2:11-13)

IV) V4 by which when you read, you may understand my knowledge

Paul's knowledge (insight) was spiritual: he wanted them to know the source of his zeal

He was not simply an excitable man, but was moved by deep, spiritual insights

V) One of the charges that he had to defend himself against was of being crazy

2 Co 5:13 If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

VI) His zeal was the product of God moving in him, and giving him insights into the kingdom

VII) V5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been

Paul intends not only to speak of this mystery, but to clarify and explain it to them

It was his intent to not only disclose it, but for all to understand what it means

VIII) V5 This was a mystery not made known to the sons of men as it has now been

No one fully realized that Abraham was the Father of *many nations* (Gen 17:4)

No one understood completely Isaiah's words Isaiah 49:6 I will also make you a *light for the Gentiles*, that my salvation may reach *to the ends of the earth*.

IX) God used Paul to reveal this truth, preaching to both Jew and Gentile God's grace

1 Co 1:24 But to those called by God to salvation, both *Jews and Gentiles*, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God

X) V6 The Gentiles should be *fellow heirs* of the same body and *partakers* of His promise

They are fellow heirs of the same body, and partakers of His promise  
This what he had just written: Eph 2:11-13

XI) Though they once were far off, they are regarded as equal to Jewish believers  
This was completely unheard of, that they would be equal to a Jewish Christian

Gal 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise

I) V6 They are also of the same body

They are viewed in the same way as any other believer

1 Co 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body--whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

II) V6 and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel

These are the various blessings that Paul has spoken of in previous verses

2 Co 1:20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

III) V7 Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me

The gospel is shared by those whom God has called to proclaim it

IV) Paul knew that God, by grace, had given him the honor of sharing the gospel

Both the calling and empowering originate with God and I am privileged to serve Him

1Co 15:10 By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain

Col 1:28-29 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

V) V8 To me who am *less than the least* of all the saints this grace was given that I should

These are the words of a thankful man who has been forgiven much

VI) Paul had a very clear understanding of God's holiness and righteousness

He was speaking with humility, realizing that he was a man in need of God's grace

1 Ti 1:15-16 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—*of whom I am the worst*. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, *the worst of sinners*, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in

him and receive eternal life

VII) V8 His mission: To preach among the Gentiles the *unsearchable* riches of Christ

Unsearchable: Beyond tracing; the inability to find out completely; unfathomable

VIII) I am to proclaim the incredible depth of God's grace towards undeserving sinners

I preach His mercy, compassion, love, kindness, generosity, patience and glory

IX) These things are beyond our ability to grasp, but are ours to have because of Jesus

Ro 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

I) V9 And to make all people see what is the *fellowship* of the mystery which from the

Fellowship: administration; dispensation; stewardship

II) My call is to make all people see (to bring to light) that God makes Jew and Gentile one

This offer is contained in the message of salvation revealed through the gospel

Mk 16:15 Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

III) 9b-11 Which from the beginning of the ages has been *hidden in God* who created all

God's work of salvation through Christ will be known by all

In the end, all will realize that God had designed the church to include all who believe

IV) Jew and Gentile were intended to live at peace and worship the same God

This was made possible by the message and receiving of the gospel

Eph 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace

V) V9 from the beginning of the ages has been *hidden in God* who created all things through

**This mystery from the beginning had been formed, but had not been made known**

**VI) V9 God created all things through Jesus Christ**

**Col 1:16 For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

**This included His plan of salvation and His plan to include Gentiles in the church**

**VII) V10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the**

**The manifold wisdom of God speaks of the various ways His wisdom has been shown**

**VIII) God brought forth the church and in doing so, manifested His wisdom before all**

**IX) V10 This includes angelic principalities and powers**

**Angels do not understand salvation because they are not saved by Jesus (Lu 15:10)**

**1 Pe 1:12 It was revealed to them (the prophets) that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.**

**X) The bringing forth of the church is intended to bring glory to the God who created it**

**Ps 103:22 Bless the Lord all His works in all places of His dominion  
Bless the Lord O my soul**

**I) V11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**

**His eternal purpose was salvation of man, including Jew and Gentile**

**II) V12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him**

**Because we are in relation to Him, we have freedom of speech, access and confidence**

**Heb 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

**III) V13 I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you which is your**



glory

People pity him because of the suffering he has endured

IV) He does not want their sympathy and does not desire them to be sad

2 Co 4:16-17 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

V) His framework is eternal and he's looking beyond the present and longing for the future

Ro 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

1 Pe 5:4 When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.