

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

(Ephesians 3:7-13)

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

II. THE BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST (1:3-3:21)

A. God's Mysterious Plan Revealed in this Dispensation (3:1-13)

1. The REVELATION of the Mystery (vv. 1-3)

2. The EXPLANATION of the Mystery (vv. 4-6)

3. The PROCLAMATION of the Mystery (vv. 7-9)

- a. Paul now spoke of his own personal experience; he gladly accepted the title of _____ or _____ (Eph. 6:21; 1 Tim. 3:8-12); in addition, it was only by grace that the Lord made him who he now was, a new man in Jesus Christ. (v. 7a, cf. Col. 1:23)
- b. The apostle also quickly realized that in order to be a pleasing servant of Christ he would need a whole lot _____ than _____ strength and endurance; thus, God supplied "*the effective _____ of His _____*." (v. 7b, 1:19-23; 3:20; 4:16; Col. 1:29; 2 Cor. 3:5-6)
- c. In _____, Paul recognized that God had demonstrated enormous grace in not only _____ him but then _____ him in a mighty way. (v. 8a, cf. 1 Cor. 15:9-10)

* Do you count it a privilege to be used in ministry?
- d. He of all people, the former Pharisee was called to "_____ " (*euangelizo*) among the Gentiles "*the _____ of Christ.*" (v. 8b, cf. Rom. 11:33; Col. 1:27; 2:3)
- e. Paul had been given the _____ [*oikonomia*] of the mystery of the Church to _____ it to all those who had been saved through the Gospel. (v. 9a, 3:2, 5-6)

- f. The Creator had chosen “*from the beginning of the ages*” to keep this mystery _____ that both Jews and Gentiles would eventually form this _____ called the Church, the Body of Christ. (v. 9b, cf. Col. 1:24-26; 1 Cor. 2:7-8)

4. The PURPOSE of the Mystery (vv. 10-13)

- a. God’s intent was to demonstrate the diverse _____ of His wisdom, and the medium by which He chose to communicate it to the _____ and _____ realm is the Church of Jesus Christ. (v. 10, cf. 1:21; 6:12; Col. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Luke 15:10)
- b. God has an eternal purpose that He is working out in human history; however, the _____ of the Church has already been “_____” (aor./act./indic.) or _____ through the cross of Christ. (v. 11)

* What does the name “*Christ Jesus our Lord*” reveal about Him?

- c. Today believers do not need to be hesitant and wonder if they are accepted; we can address God with “*boldness*” (*parrēsia*); we can have _____ in our “_____” to Him. (v. 12, cf. Heb. 4:15-16; 10:19-22)
- d. In light of God’s glorious plan in bringing salvation to the Gentiles, Paul asked his Gentile readers to _____ be _____ in the face of his current _____. (v. 13)

* How can you personally apply this truth today