

January 30 & 31, 2021



Characters in the Mystery

Ephesians 3:1-3 *“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.”*

1. Paul who is in prison because of the mystery
2. Jews are those who are descended from Abraham, and Gentiles are those who are not descended from Abraham.

Ephesians 3:4-5 *“In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations...”*

3. Old Testament people who did not know about the mystery

Ephesians 3:5-6 *“...as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.”*

4. New Testament authors who revealed the mystery

Ephesians 3:6 *“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.”*

The Mystery: Jews and Gentiles now form one body known as the church with equal blessings, membership, and access.

Ephesians 2:13-16 *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”*

The Significance of the Mystery

The church is to be a collection of diverse people who are reconciled to God and therefore reconciled to each other.

Refocus:

We will be a church that seeks to achieve all forms of reconciliation through the gospel.