

message summary

In this passage Paul begins to explain to the church of Ephesus why he is in Prison in Rome. It is interesting that Paul does not say he is a prisoner to Rome or a prisoner of Caesar but asserts to that he is a prisoner of Christ. Paul sees God as sovereign, which means in control of all things. Even in our tragedies, God is still in control and is still at work. Paul writes to the Ephesians to remind them of who they are in Christ and how God could use them to bring his Word to the whole province of Asia. In response, the Ephesian Christians would naturally have questions. They would wonder, for example, "Have we received all the wisdom from God that we will need? Have we been thoroughly equipped for the tasks God has in mind for us?" The church has lost their pastor, and now wondering how they will survive. Please take the time to read through Ephesians 3:1-21 and see how Paul reminds them that the Holy Spirit is the one leading them.

observation

- What does Paul describe as the mystery of Christ that has been revealed to him?

- Why would Paul consider himself "less than the least of all God's people"?

- Who are these "rulers and authorities" that Paul is addressing in verse 10?

interpretation

- What is the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in revealing this mystery, and how does it relate to our experience as believers today?

- How does the concept of believers being "heirs" and "partakers of the promise in Christ" shape our identity as followers of Jesus?

- How important in our world today is the church and its mission? Why?

INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION

application

- What evidence do you see of the Spirit's power in your life?

- In what ways can we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance, particularly when facing challenges, making decisions, or deepening our understanding of God's plan for us?

- What are practical ways we can fulfill our role as the church by sharing the Gospel and serving others?

APPLICATION · APPLICATION · APPLICATION