



EPHESIANS 3 PART 1

if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, - Ephesians 3:2

The Apostle Paul, a "prisoner of Christ Jesus", accepted his imprisonment as part of God's sovereign will and purpose, demonstrating that even in difficult circumstances, God is in control and can use all things for good. Paul's calling was to dispense God's grace to the Gentiles, a message revealed to him by revelation that was previously hidden. This "mystery" is the truth that Gentiles are "fellow heirs" and "of the same body" with Jews through faith in Christ, becoming "one in Christ Jesus". This revelation, once unknown even to angels, shows God's "manifold wisdom" and "eternal purpose" accomplished through Jesus Christ, offering boldness and confident access to God through faith.

This hidden truth, now revealed through the Holy Spirit and Scripture, underscores that all believers, regardless of background, share equally in Christ's inheritance and spiritual blessings. Just as Paul was empowered by the Holy Spirit to minister this grace, believers today are called to be "dispensers of God's grace" to others. We are to recognize God's hand in our lives, even amidst challenges, trusting that He uses our circumstances for His glory and to encourage others. Our faith and confidence in the Lord, manifested through the Holy Spirit's guidance and the wisdom found in God's Word, enable us to live out this revealed truth and present the Gospel to a world in need.

Read Ephesians 3:1-13 - Our faith during difficult times can encourage others. Can you share a time when someone else's faith during trials encouraged you?

Study Questions:

1. How does Paul's imprisonment illustrate the concept of God's sovereignty and purpose in difficult situations? (Ephesians 3:1 , Philippians 1:12-14)
2. What is the "hidden mystery" that Paul reveals, and how does it change our understanding of salvation and the body of believers? (Genesis 12:3, Ephesians 3:3-6 , Galatians 3:28)
3. In verse 8, Paul describes himself as 'less than the least of all the saints.' Why do you think he viewed himself this way, and what can we learn from his humility?
4. What does it mean for believers to be "fellow heirs" and "of the same body" in Christ? (Ephesians 3:6 , Romans 8:16-17 , Galatians 3:28-29)
5. In what ways are believers today called to be "dispensaries of God's grace," and how does the Holy Spirit empower them for this ministry? (Ephesians 3:2 , Ephesians 3:7-9)