



Entertaining the Mystery

Ephesians 3:1-13

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.

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

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.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

1. THE _____ OF THE MYSTERY

(Colossians 1:26, Ephesians 2:10, 13-15)

“Mysterion” means something which is beyond natural knowledge but has been opened to us by divine revelation through the Holy Spirit.

2. THE _____ OF THE MYSTERY

(1 John 1:3)

1. _____ Together
2. _____ Together
3. _____ Together



3. THE _____ OF THE MYSTERY
(1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Corinthians 15:9, 10)

a. First, it was Christ to the _____
(1 Corinthians 1:23-25)

b. Second, his next focus was to inform the world of _____
(John 13:34, 35)

c. Third, Paul's third purpose was to inform _____
(1 Peter 1:10-12, 1 Corinthians 11:10, Matthew 18:10, Job 38:7, Genesis 37:3, 23, 32; Colossians 1:17-22)

1. First, the Church is central to _____
2. Second, the Church is central to _____
3. Third, the Church is central to _____

Group Discussion:

▪ Start It Out

Do you tend to be a planner, or do you go with the flow? When you go on vacation, do you plan everything ahead of time, or do you wait until you're there to see what you'd like to do? Do you tend to like routines, or do you do things in different ways each day? What are you like when you're following someone else's plan?

▪ Talk It Out

Why does Paul refer to himself as a prisoner? What is the mystery he writes about? Imagine being a Jewish believer reading verse 6 at the time it was written. How might you feel?

How is Paul a "servant of the gospel"? What does that mean? Why does Paul say he is "less than the least of all the Lord's people"? Is this true? When do you feel like you're less than everyone else? What does God do with the least?

Paul definitely knew that his calling was to preach to the Gentiles. Do you have a strong feeling about your own calling? Why or why not? Why do you think God kept this mystery a secret until the Resurrection?



How is it possible that we can approach God with freedom and confidence because of Christ? Does being able to approach God with freedom and confidence encourage and energize you? Why or why not? How do you feel about approaching God? Are you afraid to talk to him or ask him for what you need?

The ability to approach God means we can have a relationship with him, but what does that look like? How do we build and maintain a relationship with him? What has worked well for you? Why might the Ephesians be discouraged as they look at Paul's sufferings? What was he going through in order to preach the gospel to the Gentiles?

- **Walk It Out—Cross the Bridge: Your Next 7 Day Assignment**

Identify something you've been scared to go to God with—a struggle, a question, a doubt. Go with confidence before God, knowing that he welcomes you into his throne room. He can handle anything you bring to him.