

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Week 9 - Ephesians 3:1-7

**Suggested Study Questions :**

1. As always, please make observations on: flow of thought, key terms, repeated concepts or most emphasized concepts.
2. Please note that in V1, Paul is beginning a thought about his intentions for the gentiles, but breaks for a parenthetical statement from v2-13. Please read all of v2-13 and note the content of the section.
3. Focus on 1-7 : 1. V2 Begins with an “If indeed” what does Paul want to establish or make sure here?
4. What does mystery mean? *Please see word study.*
5. What is the content of the mystery?
6. What is Paul’s perspective upon receiving the mystery?

Ephesians 3:1–7 (NASB95)

<sup>1</sup> For this reason

I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

<sup>2</sup> if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace

which was given to me for you;

<sup>3</sup> that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery,  
as I wrote before in brief.

<sup>4</sup> By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

<sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men,  
as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

<sup>6</sup> *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

<sup>7</sup> of which I was made a minister,  
according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me  
according to the working of His power.

**1. Overview observations :**

a. Review : 2:19-22 “\_\_\_\_\_ of God” The temple and dwelling of God.

b. V3:1 “**For this Reason**”

- c. V3:2-13. In the **parenthetical thought** that he pauses to ask :
  - 2. **Section #1 : V2 INDEED**
    - a. V2 Begins with an **“If indeed”** *what does Paul want to establish or make sure here?*
      - i. List some ways we hear but don't understand.
      - ii. Why is it important to make sure that we truly hear & understand?
  - 3. **Section #2 : The Mystery**
    - a. V3 Clearly the emphasis of this week's passage is this mystery. What is it?
    - b. What does the term “Mystery’ Mean?
    - c. **What does it refer to?**
  - 4. Section #3: The church is supposed to be together, together, together.
    - a. *Sugklēronómos = Sun + Kleronomos.*
    - b. *Sússōmos = Sun + soma.*
    - c. *Summétochos = Sun + Metochos”.*
    - d.

**Conclusion : What do we learn from Paul's perspective?**

1. He focused on the
2. He is focused about
3. He wanted to make sure that we know.

**Discussion Question :**

1. In the message, there are several ways that we hear but don't early receive what we are hearing. (don't think it's important or relevant, preoccupied, looking to see if others react...) How is your receptiveness to God's word at the moment?
2. How does this passage challenge you about the value of the church and the unity of the church?
3. This passage has a lot to say about revelation. What are your thoughts about God choosing to reveal elements of His truth to specific generations? How else is revelation itself a grace to us?
4. How does seeing God's redemptive plan unfold help us grow in appreciation?

**Next Week's Passage and Study Questions : Ephesians 3:8-13 "The Administration"**

1. As always, please make observations on: flow of thought, key terms, repeated concepts or most emphasized concepts.
2. Describe Paul's view of himself in this passage? (any self-descriptions, roles etc)
3. What is God's intended role for the church?
4. "Manifold wisdom" – what are some examples of a wisdom that is revealed through the church?
5. In v13, how are Paul's tribulations to their glory?

Ephesians 3:8–13 (NASB95)

<sup>8</sup> To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*. <sup>11</sup> *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.