

## EPHESIANS

### The Power that Turned a Persecutor of Christ Into a Proclaimer of the Gospel and Truth Lesson #5, Ephesians 3:1-13

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- I. In Eph. 3:1 and 3:13, the Apostle Paul mentions that he is a prisoner. We know that Paul was a believer, so why did Paul suffer so much? What does Paul's example of suffering teach us about our sufferings and trials and God's purpose for them?
- II. The Apostle Paul was highly trained and part of the strictest order of Jewish Pharisees, yet God chose him to be an apostle to the Gentiles (vss. 2-6). What does the Apostle Paul's ministry to the Gentiles teach us about how God might use us after we become believers?
- III. In Eph. 3:1-13 the Apostle Paul uses a variety of phrases to describe the purpose of His ministry e.g.:
  - A. "For this reason" (vs. 1)
  - B. "for the sake of you Gentiles" (vs. 1)
  - C. "the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you" (vs. 2)
  - D. "when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ" (vs. 4)
  - E. "of which I was made a minister" (vs. 7)
  - F. "grace was given to preach to the Gentiles" (vs. 8)
  - G. "grace was given . . . to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery" (vs. 9)
  - H. "so that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known" (vs. 10)
  - I. "in accordance with the eternal purpose" (vs. 11).
  - J. What do all the phrases above have in common in relation to the purpose of the Apostle Paul's ministry? How does the purpose of the Apostle Paul's ministry relate to the purpose of every believer's life and ministry?
- IV. In vs. 12 the Apostle Paul mentions we have boldness and confident access to God through faith in Jesus Christ (e.g. Heb. 4:16). Why is this truth so amazing? How should it effect our lives as believers?

#### **Prayer Topics:**

- Ask God to help you suffer trials joyfully, trusting in God, and without grumbling or complaining.
- Ask that God would help you be content in how He has gifted you and where He wants you to serve at Anchor Bible Church and in the world.
- Pray that God would use Anchor Bible Church as a church that fulfills its purpose in the world in proclaiming the mystery of Christ.
- Thank God for using all of our trials for our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28).