

## EPHESIANS – CHAPTER 3

### Vs 1 For this Reason

Refers back to – 1:9; 3:4,9 – all that proceeds

I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus

1. 2Cor10:1; Gal 5:2; Co. 1:23; 1Thes 2:18; Philem 19

2. Eph 4:1; 2Tim 1:8; Philem 1,9; Eph 3:1

For the sake of you, Gentiles (I, a prisoner, for you)

Acts 22:21ff

....verses 14–21

### Vs 2 if indeed

1. Can express uncertainty

2. Can also be rendered “since” – “If you do not know the day of your death”

3. See the discussions from our introduction which discusses who Paul was writing to

The stewardship of God’s grace...for you; given to Paul to carry out

Acts 9:15; 16:9–10; 26:17–18; Gal 1:11–17; 2:8

NOTE: The early church (Jewish) would never have come up with the idea to include the Gentiles for such a thought was totally foreign to them.

In fact, it took several clear signs from God before they

would accept the idea. The inclusion of the Gentiles (Eph 2:13–19)

was God’s idea; a mystery kept hidden in ages past.

### Vs 3 “the mystery” revealed by revelation; incorporated into the “Jewish”

Word of God! Spoken of in brief Eph 1:9; 2:13–19

## EPHESIANS – Chapter 3.....continued

Vs 4 By reading the above you can understand Paul’s insight into the  
“Mystery of Christ”

**Vs 4–5 not made known... as it has now been revealed 1Pet 1:10–12**  
Gen 12:3; 22:18 as understood in Gal 3:8

Isa 49:6	Acts 13:46–48
Isa 54:1–3	Gal 4:25–27
Amos 9:11	Acts 15:13–18

Vs 6 Content of the Mystery – Gentiles are:

1. Fellow Heirs
2. Fellow members of the Body
3. Fellow partakers of the Promise

In Christ Jesus

Through(by means of) the Gospel

Vs 7 (The Gospel) of which I was made a minister

1. Paul claims ownership of it. Rom 2:16
2. He knew who He had received it from. Gal 1:11–12
3. He was not ashamed of it. Rom 1:16–17
4. His perception of purpose. Rom 1:1

According to the gift of God’s grace – The “proud to be a Pharisee”  
Became a “by grace I have been saved”!

NOTE: Paul did not “go after” his position; He was  
Appointed by God. (balance 1 Tim 3:1)

According to – the working of God’s power – resurrection power!

EPHESIANS – Chapter 3.....continued

Vs 8 "To me" – the very least  
1Cor 15:9; 1Tim 1:15  
This grace – to preach the Gospel  
(the unfathomable riches of Christ)

Vs 9 to bring to light...the administration of the mystery

1. To bring to light Eph 1:18–19; 5:8–14

Jn 1:9; 8:12

Mtt 5:14

2Cor 4:3–4

2. The administration of Rom 16:26–27

3. The mystery Col 1:25–27

That which was concealed, now revealed

*God who created all things – controls all things; works all things*

Vs 10 so that – the manifold (many faceted) wisdom of God might now be made known.

Through the Church to...the angelic realms

NOTE: The church does not exist for itself.

The angels increase their knowledge of God as they see God's dealings with the church.

Lk 15:10; 1Cor 11:10; 1 Pet 1:12; Rev 7:11–12

**The manifold wisdom of God – Rom 11:28–36**

## **EPHESIANS – Chapter 3.....continued**

Vs 11–12 Eph 2:13–22 was in accordance with the eternal purpose!

1. Carried out in Christ Jesus
2. In whom we have boldness; bold access
3. In whom we have confident access

through faith – means

in Him – object of that faith

Vs 13 Therefore

1. I ask you not to lose heart
2. I bow my knees before the Father

### **SECOND RECORDED PRAYER OF PAUL FOR THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS LETTER**

**OVERVIEW:** Through the strength-giving Spirit and the Indwelling Christ, Paul prays that they will attain an ever-increasing realization of the love of Christ in all four of its dimensions; so as to be filled to all the fullness of God.

He is praying this prayer for “The Church”:

1. Every (whole) family in heaven and on earth
2. You – with all the saints

Paul is praying for further blessings for those who have been blessed

“with every spiritual blessing”.

## EPHESIANS – Chapter 3.....continued

Vs 14 For this reason – because God has been so good to us, I, Paul, pray with confidence to the Father for...

“bow my knees” – what does our posture when praying indicate?

As to kneeling: 2 Chron 6:13  
Ps 95:6–7  
Isa 45:23  
Dan 6:10  
Mt 17:14–15; Mk 1:40  
Lk 22:41  
Acts 9:40; 20:36  
Acts 21:5

*To the Father; through the Son; by means of the Spirit – Eph 2:18*

Vs 15 Every family – the whole family – the Father’s family

How many families: verses Eph 2:13–22; 4:4–6

NOTE: The family occupies both heaven and earth

Vs 16–19 Forms the content of the prayer

1. The Father would grant you to be strengthened...

In the inner man

2. So that Christ may dwell in your hearts
3. Rooting and grounding you in love
4. Enabling you to comprehend
  - a. The size of God
  - b. The love of Christ

## **EPHESIANS – Chapter 3.....continued**

Resulting in your being filled up to the fullness of God

According to – not – out of

The riches of His glory

The inner man – 2 Cor 4:16

Hearts

Being rooted and grounded in Eph 4:11–15 love

With all the saints – every person adds their part!

### **The dimensions of God and the love of Christ**

Both surpassing knowledge

Filled up to the fullness of God.

Vs 20–21 Now to Him...to Him for all He has done!

God is able to do

1. All we ask Him to do
2. All that we dare not ask but merely imagine
3. Far more than this

### ***God who has the***

- |           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. Power  | 1:19  |
| 2. Wisdom | 3:10  |
| 3. Mercy  | 2:4   |
| 4. Love   | 2:4   |
| 5. Grace  | 2:5–8 |

Glory in the Church to all generations.