

# Ephesians 3:1-13

## The Mystery

### Points to Consider

1. God's plan included Paul suffering for the Gentiles
2. God's plan manifested His wisdom to those in the heavenly places
3. As a result, we have boldness, access, and confidence.

### Paul was suffering for the Gentiles

#### Eph 3:1-7

Since the Gentiles were fellow heirs, fellow \_\_\_\_\_, members of the same family, and stones being built into a dwelling place of God, Paul became a prisoner for the sake of the Gentiles.

**Acts 22:17-25** *"Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' 19 So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 20 And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' 21 Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'" 22 And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!" 23 Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. NKJV*

Paul was in prison, due to his sharing the gospel with the \_\_\_\_\_, when he wrote this letter.

The mystery referred to in Ephesians 3:3-6 was that the Gentiles were fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of the same promise in Christ through the \_\_\_\_\_.

Although there were mentions of this throughout the Old Testament, it was hidden from the Jews until God decided to reveal it through the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Eph 3: 7

Paul reassured the Gentiles, who may have been feeling responsible for Paul's imprisonment, that God showed him grace and was \_\_\_\_\_ through him.

**Practical Application:** Thank God for those who have suffered to bring the gospel to us. Thank Him for giving grace to those who have suffered throughout history for Him. Thank Him for working through others for our benefit.

### God's plan manifested His wisdom to the spiritual realm

#### Eph 3:8-13

Paul was preaching the \_\_\_\_\_ riches of Christ to the Gentiles. In Ephesians 1:7 we are told that redemption and forgiveness is "according to the riches of His grace."

**Rom 11:33-36** *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways **past finding out!** 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His*

counselor?" 35 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?' 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. NKJV

The word translated "unsearchable" in Ephesians 3:8 is translated "\_\_\_\_\_ finding out" in Romans 11:33.

Paul's preaching was centered around making all people understand the \_\_\_\_\_ that had been hidden since the beginning of time. A mystery in the Bible is simply something that had not been revealed fully.

## **Heavenly Places**

**Eph 1:3; Eph 1:18-23; Eph 2:4-7; Eph 6:10-12;**

The "heavenly places" is the \_\_\_\_\_ realm where spiritual beings live.

Ephesians 4:7 talks about that in the age to \_\_\_\_\_ God will show the exceeding riches of His grace toward those in Christ Jesus.

The manifold wisdom of God was not fully revealed to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places until Christ died and the \_\_\_\_\_ was established. (Ephesians 3:10)

## **The church**

**Eph 1:22** *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* NKJV

**1 Cor 12:12-13** *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.* NKJV

**Acts 2:40-47**

**Heb 12:22-24** *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.* NKJV

The Lord added to the church daily those who were being \_\_\_\_\_.

The universal church is made up of saved or \_\_\_\_\_ people.

Ephesians 3:1-13 is not teaching that local churches made known the manifold wisdom of God to the spiritual realm. Local churches, when operating according to God's plan, do show God's wisdom, but that's not Paul's point.

## **Individual members of the body?**

**Matt 5:13-16** *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* NKJV

\_\_\_\_\_ glorify God when we do good works.

**John 13:31-35** *So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. 32 If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. 33 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot*

come,' so now I say to you. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

\_\_\_\_\_ people will know that we follow Jesus when we love one another.

How does the church manifest God's wisdom to those living in the heavenly places?

**Eph 3:6; Eph 3:11**

**Heb 9:11-15** *But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. NKJV*

The redemption of sins also extended to the transgressions done under the \_\_\_\_\_ covenant. God's \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners and taking them out of the kingdom of darkness and putting them into the kingdom of light is what shows God's wisdom to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

**Practical Application: Praise God for His eternal plan to redeem us and for adding us into His church.**

## **As a result, we have boldness, access, and confidence**

**Eph 3:11**

**Heb 4:14-16** *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. NKJV*

As redeemed members of the body of Christ we can come boldly before the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace that will \_\_\_\_\_ us in our time of need.

**Heb 10:19-24** *Therefore, brethren, having **boldness to enter the Holiest** by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. NKJV*

**Rom 5:1-2** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have **access** by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. NKJV*

We can boldly enter the Holiest and have \_\_\_\_\_ to God.  
We can do this with great \_\_\_\_\_.

**Practical Application: Understand that there are no second-class citizens in God's kingdom! You have access to the throne of God! Enter it with boldness this week and ask him for help when you need it.**