

# The Mystery Revealed

## Ephesians 3:1-13

### Introduction

#### I Paul's Calling and Mission

- A. God appointed Paul - Gal 1:15-16
  - 1. By His grace - Rom 15:15
  - 2. For the Gentiles' sake - Rom 15:16
- B. God revealed the mystery to Paul
  - 1. By divine revelation - 1 Cor 2:6-10
- C. God commissioned Paul
  - 1. To share the revelation of the mystery - Col 1:26-27
    - a. Not previously known - Rom 16:25
    - b. Now revealed - Rom 16:26
      - 1. Through hearing the Word - Col 1:28-29
      - 2. Through reading the Word - Jn 20:31

#### II Paul's Revelation Of The Mystery

- A. The gospel - Col 1:25-27
- B. Jews and Gentiles:
  - 1. Heirs together with Israel - Eph 1:9-10; Gal 3:26-29
  - 2. Members together of one body
  - 3. Sharers together in the promise in Christ

#### III Paul's Self-Assessment

- A. A prisoner of Christ - Eph 6:19-20
- B. A servant - 2 Cor 4:5; Col 1:23-26
- C. A recipient of God's grace
- D. Empowered by God - Eph 1:19; Col 1:28-29
- E. Least in the kingdom of God - 1 Tim 1:12-16

#### IV Paul's Encouragement

- A. The church's calling and mission
  - 1. Depository of the manifold wisdom of God
  - 2. Revealer of the manifold wisdom of God - 2 Tim 2:2
    - a. Made known through the church
    - b. Made known to rulers and authorities - Col 2:15

- 1. According to His eternal purpose - Eph 1:11
- 2. Accomplished in Christ
- B. The church's supernatural resource
  - 1. We can approach God:
    - a. Because we are in Him
    - b. Through faith in Him - Rom 5:1-2
  - 2. We can approach God with:
    - a. Freedom of speech
    - b. Confidence of access - Heb 4:15-16

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Paul had an intense and overwhelming desire to make Christ known to others. What do you think drove him? What drives you in life? Discuss the costliness of this kind of lifestyle.
2. What kind of people do you think might feel awkward at church? What can you do to help break down those barriers? Why is it important to do so?
3. Even though Paul was in prison when he wrote Ephesians, he had a remarkably selfless and positive attitude. Why do you think he was able to respond in this way? What can you learn from his example?
4. God's intent is that through the church His multifaceted wisdom might be made known. How do you think we could better accomplish this mission as a church?
5. Paul tells us that we can come to God with freedom and confidence. What needs do you have right now that you could bring to him in prayer?

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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