

God's Mystery Revealed

in the age
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us through Chr
or by grace are
not of yourselves
of works, lest
we are

Ephesians 3:1-7

Paul's unique role..



Apostle to the Gentiles

- God's mystery revealed to him.. v 2
- God's mission entrusted to him.. v 7

The Dispensation of the Grace of God

Ephesians 3:1-7

- 3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— ² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,
- ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:
- ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Paul's prayer..

- 3:1 For this reason I, Paul..
 - Beginning to pray.. Interrupts his prayer
- 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named..

Why the interruption?

- To explain his unique role to the Gentiles

Paul's perspective...

- 3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—
 - Paul saw himself a prisoner of Christ
 - His imprisonment was for the Gentiles
 - Acts 21:28 “This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place..”
 - Acts 22:21-22 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!”

Paul's privilege..

- God's divine revelation to Paul
 - 3:2 indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
 - ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery..
- Paul wrote the revelation for us..
 - 3 (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)..

Paul's privilege

- God's mystery made known...
 - ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:
⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel..
- Paul's mission to make this known..
 - ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

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