

Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3.1-7

V1 – How could it be said that Paul was a prisoner for sake of the Gentiles? In *Acts 21:26*

he was accused of taking a Gentile into temple

-Also, Paul said he was the apostle to the Gentiles

-So Paul is reminding them that he is suffering on their behalf and that he was often persecuted for preaching to the Gentiles

V2 – *Acts 9.15* – He was called to preach to the Gentiles

-**Did Paul feel that this was a burden?** No, it was a part of God’s grace to him

V3 – *Galatians 1.15-17* – He spent 3 years in Arabia

-A special revelation to Paul

-Or possibly a reference back to *Ephesians 1.9-10, 2.19-20*

V4 – He is going to explain more about this “mystery”

V5 – The mystery was not known for many generations, but was revealed to the apostles and prophets

V6 – **What is the mystery Paul is speaking of?** That all people can come to salvation

-They are fellow-heirs, fellow members, and fellow partakers of the gospel of Christ

V7 – Paul is a minister – **Was that a burden?** No, it was a gift from God

-He was thankful (even in prison) for being a minister

Ephesians 3.8-13

V8 – **Why did he feel especially grateful?** Least of all the saints, but he was given the assignment to preach to the Gentiles

-**Unfathomable?** Like a bottomless pit

V9 – **Administration goal?** To bring to light this mystery

V10 – **What is the source of all the benefits from God?** Through the church “*rulers and authorities in heavenly places*” (maybe even the angels learned the truth through the church)

V11 – All was planned according to purpose of God

V12 – **What do we have boldness now to do?** To come to God as his children

-Also to preach the gospel with courage

V 13 – Paul’s request? Not to get discouraged because he was in prison
-Rather to be proud of his suffering

Ephesians 3.14-19

V 14 – For what reason? Based on the grace give to Paul (even as chief of sinners)
-“*Bow my knees*” – **What does this signify?** Paul’s attitude of thanksgiving to God
-Notice the use of the term “Father” for God

V 15 – All people must trace their origin back to God the Father

V 16 – Does God have a shortage of glory? No, rather “*riches*”
-**For what does Paul pray?** That the Ephesians might be strengthened

V 17 – What else did Paul include in his prayer? That Christ might dwell in their hearts through faith
-“*Rooted and grounded*” = To put roots down, not to have a “thin” faith

V 18-19 – What else is included in the prayer? That they might know the love of Jesus
-**How does Paul describe this love?** It surpasses all knowledge

Ephesians 3.20-21

V 20 – How does Paul describe God? He can do “*far more abundantly*” more than we can ask or think
-In other words, God can do more for us than we can even dream of

V 21 – Where is the glory of God to found? In the church
-So much hatred in the world, with wars, strife, race against race, nation against nation,
-But we get a glimpse of God by looking at the church

V 20-21 – A “doxology” – a deep and profound blessing pronounced on the Ephesians by Paul

Summary of Ephesians 1-3:

- How we were blessed in being saved
- How the grace of God was extended to us
- How the love of God culminated in the church

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