

PAUL'S PRISON PURPOSE OF WRITING GRACE REVELATION (continued)

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 2:11-18, 3:1-6

RECAP

- **Eph 3:1 – Paul's imprisonments were purposefully allowed and pre-planned by God:**
  - Paul's first Roman imprisonment allowed him to write down the Ephesian letter for the Gentile believers specifically, but generally for all believers
- **Eph 3:2 – During Paul's ministry in Ephesus, the Ephesian Gentile believers had previously heard of the Dispensation of the Grace from God**

RECAP

- **Dispensation defined:**
  - How you LIVE in a household; not how you get into a household
  - Seven dispensations in Scripture
    - Two are specifically named – Eph 1:10, 3:2
    - One is described (dispensation of Law) – Heb 3:1-6
    - Four are implied as specific households in the book of Genesis
  - This present household for church saints only, is named "the dispensation of the grace from God" – Eph 3:2
  - What they had previously heard:
    - Acts 20:24,32; Gal 1:6. 2:21, 5:4

INTRODUCTION

- Paul has written that they have been saved by God's grace in all three tenses of their salvation (Eph 2:5,8) with specific focus of **GRACE IN CHRIST** *(Eph 1:6)*

  - Also, cf II Tim 2:1 "be enabled by the grace that is in Christ Jesus:"

The Unveiling of Mystery Within the Dispensation of Grace (Eph 3:3)

- **All NT mysteries were first revealed to Paul - I Cor 4:1-2**
  - **"Ministers", "stewards", "us"** (an editorial 'we'), speaking of Paul, himself
    - **"ministers"** = 'under-rower': one who calls out the pace of the oarsmen on a rowing vessel
    - Revealed to Paul during his 3-yr Arabian seminary – Gal 1:15-18

  - This mystery was previously written in THIS letter – Eph 2:10,15
  - Written in "a few words" compared to Paul's other writings

The Mystery of "THE CHRIST" Stated
(Eph 3:4-6)

- **"The Christ" = The Head (Christ), plus the Body (the Church)**
  - Mentioned in I Cor 12:12-13
  - Total Equality of ALL believers in Christ
  - This mystery, as is true of all NT Pauline mysteries, was not known to the sons of men in previous ages – Eph 3:5
  - NOW, made known to holy apostles & NT prophets by the Holy Spirit

Details of This Mystery of "THE CHRIST" (Eph 3:6)

- That the previously separated Gentile believers should now be:
  - **Co-heirs**
  -
  - **A joint body**
  - **Joint partakes of the promise – Eph 2:18**
    - Both believing Jew and believing Gentile have equal access to the Father!

CONCLUSION

The absolute equality of ALL NT believers and our exalted limitless access to God the Father is all due to God's amazing grace toward us in our household (dispensation) 0f grace– Eph 1:6

"to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved"