

The Mystery and Love of Christ

Lesson 4

Ephesians 3:1-21

God's grace was extended to Paul while he was traveling on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), and that grace forever changed the direction of his life.

The Mystery - Ephesians 3:1-13

1. Paul informed his readers that he was in prison, but whose prisoner? (Ephesians 3:1)
2. Paul described the administration of God's grace as a "mystery". How was this mystery made known to him? (Ephesians 3:2, 3)
3. Who is the administrator of that mystery? (Ephesians 3:4)
4. In past generations, the mystery of God's plan was unknown. How was this mystery revealed in the present, 1st century generation? (Ephesians 3:5)
5. What is that great mystery that has now been revealed? (Ephesians 3:6)
6. Paul called himself a servant of this gospel. How did he become a servant? (Ephesians 3:7)
7. How did he describe himself? (Ephesians 3:8a)
 - Why did he feel this way? (1 Corinthians 15:9)
8. As servant of the gospel, he described his task in Ephesians 3:8b-9.
 - To whom was he to preach?

- What was he to preach?
 - How was he to preach?
9. In the past, this was kept hidden in God. What did Paul remind his readers about God? (Ephesians 3:9b)
 10. What is God's intent for the church? (Ephesians 3:10)
 11. Was the mystery of God's plan something new? (Ephesians 3:11a)
 12. How was God's plan accomplished? (Ephesians 3:11b)
 13. The result is given in verse 12 and worth memorizing. Write out the verse but in place of "him" insert "Christ" and in place of "we" insert "I" followed by your name.
 14. Take a moment to think about what you just wrote, and then write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for that privilege.

The Love of God - Ephesians 3:14-19

Paul expressed concern for his readers by asking them not to be discouraged that he was suffering (in prison). Then, reflecting on all the wonderful blessings we have in Christ he was lead to pray for them.

15. What posture did he use in this prayer? (Ephesians 3:14)

16. What did he say about the Father? (Ephesians 3:15)

17. Paul's first request was that out of God's glorious riches he would _____
_____ (Ephesians 3:16)

- Why? (Ephesians 3:17a)

18. What did Paul pray that they would be rooted and established in? (Ephesians 3:17b)

19. Paul prayed that all the saints (believers) would have the power of the Holy Spirit to grasp Christ's love. How did he try to describe the parameters of Christ's love? (Ephesians 3:18)

20. Paul wanted them to know this love which _____ (Ephesians 3:19a)

- Why? (Ephesians 3:19b)

21. Reread Paul's description of the love of Christ in verses 16-19. What words would you use to describe His love?

Benediction - Ephesians 3:20-21

22. Chapter 3 ends with a beautiful benediction. Using Ephesians 3:20-21:

- What is God able to do?
- How is that possible?

- Where is He working?
- Where is the glory (presence) of God being revealed?
- For how long?

Paul could have ended here in his teaching about who the believer is in Christ, but he did not. In the final three chapters, he will teach how to live in light of our identity in Christ.