

EPHESIANS 3; November 1; Mystery = Gentiles as Fellowheirs

ANALYSIS:

1. What does Paul tell about his present situation in this chapter?

2. What is the “mystery” which Paul reveals by the Spirit? _____

3. What does God intend to reveal to the principalities and powers by the church? _____

4. What does Paul pray that the Spirit will do for the Ephesians?

5. For what does Paul pray that the Ephesians may comprehend and know, which passeth knowledge? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Three times Paul uses the word “mystery” in this chapter (vs 3, 4, 9). He explains that this is a revelation that goes beyond the simple inclusion of Gentiles in eternal salvation. It is specifically that Gentiles are in every way equal with the Jews before God. Gentiles are declared to be: [1] Fellow-heirs in relation to Jewish believers, [2] Fellow-members of the body in relation to Christ the head, [3] Fellows-partakers of the promises in relation to the historic promises of God. This revelation would have been thrilling news to the churches of Galatia which had endured the false teaching Paul combated when he wrote the book of Galatians. Not only was circumcision not required of the Gentile converts, but the Gentiles were perfectly equal with the Jews through Christ in the gospel.

Though Paul is used of God to reveal the mystery of the equality of Gentiles with Jews, his true spirit of humility is seen in the words “who am the less than the least of all saints” (v 8). May we never take praise or credit which belongs to our God. “Until Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (v 21).

HELP:

1. Paul says he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles (also of Rome, when he wrote this epistle) (v 1).
2. “That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel” (v 6).
3. The manifold wisdom of God (v 10).
4. That God's saints may be strengthened with might, by his Spirit, in the inner man (v 16).
5. The love of Christ (v 19).