

## Ephesians Handout Week Thirteen

How Paul got to this point...

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

For this reason:

Encouragement 1: Paul is a prisoner of \_\_\_\_\_

Who is your warden?

2 Cor.2:14

Encouragement 2: Paul is an actual *prisoner*. But what about...

Ps. 34:7, Deut. 31:6, Ps. 91:1, Lk. 12:7, Rom. 8:28

Encouragement 3: Paul is a prisoner for the sake of the gentiles. And

10. so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places...11 in accordance with the *eternal purpose* which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

For this reason (charin) I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of *God's grace* which was *given* (granted/bestowed) to me for you...6 the gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the *gift of God's grace* which was *given* to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this *grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles* the unfathomable riches of Christ

Encouragement 4: Or is it? Paul was a prisoner because he did all the right things

Acts 28:20. 2 Tim. 3:12, Jn. 15:20, 1 Pt. 4:12

Paul is NOT taking this approach.

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What he is saying—

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|------------|------------|
| 1. For     | Jam. 1:2   |
| 2. For the | 1 Pt. 4:10 |
| 3. For     |            |

What's the big mystery? Eph. 1:9

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel... 8 this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration plan of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

Was it really a mystery? Abraham, Ps. 2:8, Isaiah...

What was never revealed before was the radical nature of God's plan called the \_\_\_\_\_  
United to God, United to one another in total equality. Through the gospel-  
What do we do with this mystery?

Vv. 8 Preach the unfathomable riches of Christ: anexichniastos How?

-V. 9 Bring to light what is the administrative plan of the mystery. Koinonia.

The mysteries we still struggle with...

-How God uses *some* people.

8. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.  
2 Cor. 10:10

4 ...the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit... 7 of which I was made a minister according to the *gift of God's grace* which was given to me according to the working of *His power*.

-How God uses the church.

Too low a view of it.

10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church...  
Polypoikilos:

Example-

God doesn't hide the ugly, the weird, the awkward, the messy. He puts it on parade.

Not high enough

Every time you meet as the body of Christ, it is 10 so the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the *rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places*.

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| 1 Pt. 1:10               | The mercy seat |
| Gideon                   | 2 Cor. 4:5     |
| The taunt, the rub it in | Phil. 4:21     |

Note: