



Ephesians Lesson 3 Chapter 3

In chapter 2 Paul discusses the position that both Jew and Gentile are now in because of what Christ has done. This wasn't an easy concept for either faction to accept due to the enmity that had kept them in separate worlds for millennia. For the Jew, the idea of embracing and integrating with the pagan Gentiles and their detestable lifestyles was inconceivable. The Gentiles had the difficulty of overcoming years of immoral behavior and also learning to worship with the Jews despite their extreme superiority complex toward the Gentiles. This was a case of two opposite worldviews colliding together to become one under the leadership of Christ. Paul

makes it clear that God's plan was to unite both Jew and Gentile as the church into "a holy temple in the Lord," a "dwelling of God in the Spirit."

In Chapter 3 Paul explains his unusual insight into this mystery, and how delivering it to both Gentile and Jew has become his God-given calling. He will also explain God's supernatural purposes in the creation of the church. His prayer for them at the end of the chapter identifies the necessary working of the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives whereby they have the ability to cooperate with God's divine purposes.

READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 3

1. *According to Paul in vs. 1-2, what gave him the ability to reach the Gentiles with the gospel?*



Word Study

The definition of “mystery” according to Vines Expository Dictionary is “the initiated.” “It denotes, not the mysterious, (as with the English word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit. In the ordinary sense a “mystery implies knowledge withheld; its Scriptural significance is truth revealed.”

2. *With the above definition in mind, give some other “mysteries” referred to in Scripture.*

Eph. 3:8-9

1 Cor. 2:6-16

1 Cor. 15:51

Col. 2:2

Rom. 11:25

2 Thess. 2:3-10

3. *What is a most significant result of the “riches of His kindness” (v. 8) according to Romans 2:4?*

4. *According to vs. 10-11, for what reason did God wait to reveal these “mysteries”?*

8. Paul's statements in vs. 8-12 also prompt him to pray boldly and specifically for the Ephesian believers (vs. 14-21). List at least 4 specific things that Paul prays for them.

a)

b)

c)

d)



Make it practical:

Using the statements in Paul's prayer above, write out a prayer for believers closest to you.

I pray God that You would grant _____
because of the riches of Your glory

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
