

# PAUL'S GOSPEL TESTIMONY

Message #5, Ephesians 3

October 4, 2020

*This mystery is that through the gospel  
the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body,  
and sharers together in the promise of Christ Jesus.*

*I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace  
given me through the working of his power.*

Ephesians 3:6-7

## Structure

(3:1) Paul gets ready to pray:

*For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles . . . .*

(3:2-13) Paul shares his gospel calling

*<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.*

*<sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.*

(3:14-19) Paul gets back to his prayer

*<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

(3:20-21) Paul ends Part 1 with a doxology

*<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

## What we learn about Paul (and ourselves!)

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets . . . .

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Ephesians 3:2-13

1) Paul administers the gospel , the key to \_\_\_\_\_

2) Paul sees himself as \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ transcends tribulation

## What we learn about the gospel (and about ourselves!)

<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus [of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace give which was given to me according to the working of his power.]

Ephesians 3:6 (3:7 should not be a new sentence, see the NASB as opposed to NIV and ESV)

1) The gospel is \_\_\_\_\_

2) Together \_\_\_\_\_ , together \_\_\_\_\_ , together \_\_\_\_\_

3) Promise ( *epi + aggelion* ) and Gospel ( *eu + aggelion* ) are both God's \_\_\_\_\_

## Praying again with Paul

1) A Spirit kind of power

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being . . . .

Ephesians 3:14-16

This means for me: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Jesus moving in

<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith . . . .

Ephesians 3:17

This means for me: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Christ's big, big love

and that you, being rooted and grounded in love <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge . . . .

Ephesians 3:17-19

This means for me: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Topped off and staying full

that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:19

This means for me: \_\_\_\_\_

5) The doxology

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

This means for me: \_\_\_\_\_

# **My working outline of Ephesians**

Overall Theme:

Chapters 1-3 The Glory of God in the Church

Chapter 1 The glory of God in redemption

Chapter 2 The glory of God in reconciliation

Chapter 3 The glory of God in the revelation of the mystery of the church

Chapters 4-6 The Glory and Pleasure of God through the Church

Chapter 4 The glory of God in the unity and growth of the church

Chapter 5 The glory of God in the imitation of Christ by the saints

Chapter 6 The glory of God in victory of Christ

## Resources for further studies of Ephesians

For studying Ephesians 2:

Horatio Bonar's short study at <https://www.monergism.com/without-god>

Bob Deffinbaugh at <https://bible.org/seriespage/10-paul%E2%80%99s-imprisonment-his-prayers-and-his-praise-ephesians-31-21>

J.C. Ryle on "One Family" at <https://www.biblebb.com/files/ryle/pr16.htm>

This is a wonderful Bible Project introduction on youtube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=12&v=Y71r-T98E2Q&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=Y71r-T98E2Q&feature=emb_logo)

Bob Deffinbaugh's Ephesians series is at <https://bible.org/series/ephesians-glory-god-church>

Spurgeon's series of messages on Ephesians are at [http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r\\_eph.htm](http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r_eph.htm)

Kim Riddlebarger's sermons on Ephesians are at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/sermons-on-ephesians/?jsessionid=3799445CA50CA06F2F395D4FBE89D586.v5-web017>

ThirdMill has produced "Paul and the Ephesians" at <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp/vid/19/version/>

Desiring God, John Piper's media ministry, has some wonderful resources at

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/ephesians/1/messages>

Mark Johnston's "Preaching Ephesians" at <https://www.reformation21.org/articles/preaching-ephesians.php>

Doug's favorite commentaries are John R. W. Stott's *The Message of Ephesians* (IVP, 1979), William Hendriksen, *Exposition of Ephesians* (Baker Book House, 1967); Ephesians in the *Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Zondervan, 1981) by A. Skevington Wood; and, much shorter, F. F. Bruce's *The Epistle to the Ephesians* (Revell, 1961).

Martyn Lloyd-Jones has a wonderful seven volume series on Ephesians (Baker Books, 1978).

The text we spent the most time on in Darrell Johnson's class was Timothy Gombis' *The Drama of Ephesians* (IVP Academic, 2010)

The Gospel Coalition has resources on Ephesians at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/ephesians/>

Alexander Maclaren's commentary on Ephesians 1 is at

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mac/ephesians-1.html>

F.F. Bruce's paraphrase is available at [https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3\\_163.pdf](https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3_163.pdf)

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30]) <sup>†</sup>		■										
Paul's conversion (33/34*)			●									
Paul's first Jerusalem visit (36/37*)				●								
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					■							
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)						●						
Paul's third Jerusalem visit (apostolic council) (48–49*)						●						
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						■						
Paul's third journey (incl. 3 years in Ephesus) (52–57*)							■					
Paul, under house arrest in Rome, writes to Ephesus (62*)									●			
Paul martyred in Rome (64–67*)									■			



