

Make All Men See

TEXT: Eph. 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **vs. 1.** PAUL LOOKS BACK TO **CHAPTER 2**.
1. **Past** and **Present** condition of Gentile Christians.
 2. **Reconciliation** moves Paul to utter a prayer, asking certain blessings on their behalf (**vs. 14f.**).
- B. **vs. 2-13.** A PARENTHETICAL STATEMENT.
1. Explains his part in God's **Eternal Purpose**.
 2. The **church's place** is also named in general terms.

I. THE MYSTERY MADE KNOWN BY REVELATION (vs. 2-7).

- A. IN WHAT SENSE WAS GOD'S PURPOSE A **MYSTERY**?
1. Not revealed in other generations (**vs. 5; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:6-9**).
 2. **Now has it been revealed.**
- B. MADE KNOWN BY **REVELATION (vs. 3-5)**.
1. As opposed to being **discovered (1 Cor. 1:21)**.
 2. As opposed to being **taught by other men (Gal. 1:11-12)**.
 3. Revealed **to the apostles and prophets (vs.3, 5; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 1:12)**.
 4. Revealed **by the Spirit (vs. 5)**.
 5. "Which things we speak ..." (**1 Cor. 1:12-13**). **NOT IN MAN'S WORDS.**
 6. **Written so that understanding might be imparted (vs. 4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**.
- C. WITH WHAT PART OF THE MYSTERY WAS PAUL ESPECIALLY CONCERNED? (**vs. 6-7**).
1. The Gentiles are **fellow-heirs**.
 - a. Sons of God (**Rom. 8:16-17**).
 - b. Sons of Abraham (**Gal. 3:6-7, 28-29**).
 - c. Share in the inheritance (**1 Pet. 1:3-5**).
 2. The Gentiles are **fellow-members** of the body.
 - a. One body made up of Jew and Gentile (**Eph. 2:14-16**).
 - b. A part of the reconciled body (**Eph. 2:16**).
 3. The Gentiles are **fellow-partakers** of the promise.
 - a. As it was promised to Eve and Abraham (**Gen. 3:15; 12:3**).
 - b. In Christ (**Acts 4:12; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:3-4**).
 - c. Through the gospel (**1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15**).
- D. PAUL CONSIDERS THIS MINISTRY A GIFT (**vs. 7**).

II. PAUL'S PLACE IN REVEALING THE MYSTERY (vs. 8-13).

- A. THE LEAST OF ALL SAINTS (**vs. 8; 1 Tim. 1:12-15; 2 Cor. 4:5; 12:15**).
- B. AN APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES (**vs. 8; Acts 9:15-16**).
- C. HE WAS TO **MAKE ALL MEN SEE THE MYSTERY (vs. 9)**.
- D. THE PURPOSE OF THIS AND SIMILAR MINISTRIES – TO MAKE KNOWN THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD **THROUGH THE CHURCH (vs. 10)**.
- E. A PART OF THE **ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD IN CHRIST**

(vs. 11; Eph. 1:9-10, 23; 1 Tim. 3:15).

- F. AS THEY RECOGNIZE HIS PLACE, HE ASKS THAT THEY NOT BE DISCOURAGED WHEN THEY SEE HIM SUFFER (vs. 13).

III. HIS PRAYER (vs. 14-19).

- A. ADDRESSED TO THE FATHER (vs. 14).

- B. THAT HE WOULD GRANT **THREE THINGS**:

1. That ye be **strengthened** with power through his Spirit in the inward man. Refers to their faith and stedfastness being increased by the revealer of their faith.
2. That **Christ** may dwell **in their hearts** through faith.
3. That ye may be **strong to apprehend the love** of Christ.
 - a. It's quality and quantity.
 - b. But first they must be rooted and grounded in love.

CONCLUSION: DOXOLOGY (vs. 20-21).

Glory to God!
In Christ (Eph. 1:9-10)
In the Church (1:22-23)