

Ephesians 3:1

A Prisoner of Jesus Christ

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”

Though Paul was physically imprisoned by Rome, he understood his chains in a far deeper way. He did not see himself as Rome’s captive, but Christ’s servant. His suffering was not accidental; it was connected to his obedience to the calling God had given him.

Paul was persecuted because he boldly proclaimed that Gentiles could be saved by faith in Jesus Christ, apart from becoming Jews or submitting to the Mosaic Law. This message offended religious pride, but Paul would not retreat from the truth of God’s grace.

Ephesians 3:2–5

The Stewardship of Grace and the Revealed Mystery

“if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery...”

Paul speaks of a stewardship—a responsibility entrusted to him by God. Grace was not something Paul invented or managed; it was something he had received and was commissioned to proclaim.

The mystery was not something mysterious or puzzling, but something previously hidden and now revealed by God’s Spirit. The Old Testament prophets spoke of the Messiah, but they did not fully understand the unfolding plan that would follow His suffering, death, and resurrection.

They saw the kingdom, but not the extended season in which God would gather people from every nation into one body through Christ.

Ephesians 3:6

One Body, One Promise, One Gospel

“that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.”

This is the heart of the mystery: Jews and Gentiles are now united in Christ. There are not two peoples of God, nor separate spiritual classes. All who believe are fellow heirs, members of one body, and sharers in the same promises.

Salvation is offered freely through the gospel, made possible because Jesus shed His blood on the cross and confirmed His victory through the resurrection.

Ephesians 3:7–9

Grace That Calls the Unworthy

“to me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...”

Paul's humility is striking. He never forgot who he had been—a persecutor of the church. Yet rather than being crushed by his past, he was overwhelmed by grace.

God delights in using redeemed people to proclaim redemption. Paul understood that everything God did through him was pure grace. The message he preached was not his own worth, but the immeasurable riches found in Christ.

Ephesians 3:10–11

God's Wisdom Displayed Through the Church

“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places...”

God's plan is so profound that even angelic beings learn about His wisdom by observing what He does in the church. The indwelling presence of God in redeemed humanity is something angels marvel at.

This was God's eternal purpose, carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. The cross and resurrection were not afterthoughts; they were central to God's plan from the beginning.

Ephesians 3:12–13

Bold Access Through Christ

“in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”

Through Jesus Christ, believers now have direct access to God. The veil that once separated humanity from God's presence was torn when Jesus died on the cross.

No priest, ritual, or mediator is required. Believers are invited to come boldly—not arrogantly, but confidently—because access is grounded in Christ's finished work, not human worthiness.

Ephesians 3:14–19

Paul's Prayer for Inner Strength and Experiential Love

Paul bows in prayer, asking that believers would be:

- Strengthened with might through the Spirit in the inner man
- Rooted and grounded in love
- Able to comprehend the vast dimensions of Christ's love
- Filled with all the fullness of God

This is not a prayer for information, but for transformation. Paul longs for believers not merely to know about God's love, but to experience it deeply—a love so vast it surpasses intellectual understanding.

Christ dwelling in the heart means more than presence; it means being at home—welcomed, unhindered, and honored in every area of life.

Ephesians 3:20–21

God’s Unlimited Ability and Eternal Glory

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...”

God is not limited by human categories of easy or impossible. He works beyond our imagination and far above our expectations.

The ultimate goal is God’s glory—in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages. Eternity itself will be filled with worship, gratitude, and awe for God’s grace revealed in Christ.

Practical Application

- Do not measure God’s ability by your limitations.
- Live daily in the confidence that you have access to God through Christ.
- Invite Jesus not merely to dwell in your life, but to be fully at home in your heart.

A Challenge for Believers

Are you living as someone strengthened in the inner man, or merely surviving in your own strength? Do not settle for surface-level faith when God invites you into deep, abiding communion with Him.

Let Christ rule every room of your heart.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

This grace is offered to you as well. Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross for your sins, and God raised Him from the dead, declaring Him to be God, Savior, and Lord.

If you will repent and believe, God will forgive you, dwell within you by His Spirit, and bring you into His eternal family—not by works, but by grace.

Today, you can enter into the life God intended for you.