

Claim God's Perception

*“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.
⁶This 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. ⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His 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, ¹¹according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.”*

- Ephesians 3:1-13

In This Series...

1. We'll encourage God's children to think differently about who they are in Christ.
2. We'll understand many of our benefits in Christ.
3. We'll celebrate all that's ours through Christ.

The Prisoner...

1. Paul's chains stamp his writing with authority.
2. Paul's position shows the fulfillment of God's purpose.

The Plot...

1. God gave Paul a special something: —
 a) Stewardship b) Dispensation c) Gift
2. God gives each Christian a 'gift'.

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.” - 1 Corinthians 12:7,11

The Secret made Public...

1. Not Christ's secret, but the secret that is Christ.
2. The outcome of the mystery is unity in the Body...
 - a) All are heirs of the kingdom
 - b) Members of one body
 - c) Sharers in the promise

The Presentation...

1. Paul receives a huge honour.
2. He realizes quickly that it calls for humility.
“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” - James 3:13

The Purpose... Once again, God's glory!

1. “Through the working of His power.”
2. “Through the church”
 - a) An earthly demonstration of unity
 - b) Also the staging ground for God's power.

The Privileges...

1. We can approach God.
“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” - James 1:5
2. We have confidence in Him.
“For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.” - Luke 21:15
3. Sometimes the privilege is suffering.

What Do We Learn?

1. God places us where we need to be when He needs us to be there.
2. Sometimes a believer faces incredible trials.
3. Wisdom comes from God in God's time.
4. When we ignore God's wisdom, we can get in the way of God's plan.
5. God is in control.

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