

# EPHESIANS

## Lesson 4 - Chapter 3

As we study Chapter 3 we have the opportunity to see into the heart and calling of Paul by the grace of God. We will again look at the mystery revealed - the wonderful plan for us, the Gentiles, to be included in the kingdom of God. Then we will finish this chapter with another beautiful prayer, one which we can learn from for our own prayers for others.

As you begin this lesson, pray for a greater appreciation of the purpose of God for the Gentiles revealed in His Word this week.

### **Key Word(s)**

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

**Memory Verse** – This week’s memory verse is Hebrews 4:16.

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need...”*

### **Read Ephesians 3:1-2.**

1. In Ephesians 3:1, Paul describes himself as a *prisoner*. Paul was in a Roman prison, yet he did not call himself a prisoner of Rome.

a. Whose prisoner did he consider himself to be?

b. What does this show you?

2. In Ephesians 3:2, we read of a *dispensation* Paul was given for the Gentiles.

a. What dispensation had God given Paul for the Gentiles?

### **Read Ephesians 3:3-7**

Remember, the *mystery* Paul is talking about is not a mystery to be solved by us, but rather a spiritual truth to be revealed.

1. According to the following scriptures, how was the *mystery* revealed to Paul?

a. Ephesians 3:3,5

b. Galatians 1:11-12

2. Write out what the mystery is as given in Ephesians 3:6.

3. How do the following scriptures add to our understanding of the mystery?

a. Romans 8:16-17

b. Galatians 3:14

c. Galatians 3:26-29

4. Paul was a minister to the Gentiles. What does Ephesians 3:7 say about how he was given that ministry?

5. There were hints of the mystery of the Gentiles in the Old Testament. What do you find in the following scriptures?

a. Genesis 26:4

b. Isaiah 49:6

**Read Ephesians 3:8-13.**

1. How does Paul describe himself in Ephesians 3:8?
  
2. The next section describes what Paul is to preach. What does Ephesians 3:8b say about this?

Note: *unsearchable* could also be translated as *past finding out*.

3. From verse 9, how long has this mystery been hidden? In Whom was it hidden?
  
4. Re-read Ephesian 3:10-12 carefully, then break down these amazing truths by answering the following.

a. verse 10 - *...to the intent that now* (at this time) ...

1. What was made known?
  
2. By whom?
  
3. To whom?

b. verse 11 – *the eternal purpose* accomplished in Whom?

c. verse 12 – ...in Christ we have what?

5. Stop and think about this! The Jews had no access to the Holy of Holies in the temple, it was separated by a thick curtain.

a. What is the significance of Matthew 27:51?

b. What does Hebrews 4:15-16 say about how we come to the throne and what we can obtain?

6. Ephesians 3:13 begins “*Therefore...*” Because of all the grace God has given and the riches available, what does Paul ask them not to do?

- a. Who is his tribulation for?
  
- b. What is that tribulation for them?

**Read Ephesians 3:14-19.**

*For this reason...* refers us back to the grace which gave life to the Gentiles and offers all the riches Paul has described. This prayer of Paul’s for the Ephesians is a prayer for all believers, who need to understand that there is more to the spiritual life than forgiveness of sins and the initial experience of being saved. The Lord wants to draw us deeper into Him.

- 1. From Ephesians 3:14-15, to whom does Paul address his prayer?
  
- 2. From what resources does Ephesians 3:16 say God can grant the requests?

Now, starting with Ephesians 3:16b, we will list the specific requests of Paul’s prayer for the believers by completing the phrases below.

- 1. Verse 16b: *...to be* \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. Verse 17a: *...that Christ may* \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Verse 17b: *...that you* \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4. Verse 18 *...may be able to* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 5. Verse 19a *...to know* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 6. Verse 19b *...that you may* \_\_\_\_\_

We can expand the meaning of several parts of this prayer by also looking at other scriptures. Read the scriptures given for the parts of prayer below and write what you find.

1. Verse 16b: *...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man*

2 Corinthians 4:16 -

2. Verse 17a: *...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*

Colossians 1:27 -

3. Verse 17b: *...that you being rooted and grounded in love...*

a. What does it mean to be rooted and grounded in God's love?

b. What does Jeremiah 17:8 tell us about the results of being rooted and grounded?

4. Verse 18: Paul wants us to comprehend what *...the width and length and depth and height...* of God's love for us.

a. How does it affect you to consider God's love this way?

b. Write the words of David from Psalm 139:6 below.

### **Read Ephesians 3:20-21.**

1. As Paul closes his prayer, he gives us a beautiful description of what God is *able to do...* Write the words below from Ephesians 3:20.

2. Ephesians 3:21 ends the prayer with a wonderful reminder to all, “...to Him be the glory.”  
What does this mean to you?

**In closing...**

1. Ephesians 3:20 clearly reminds us that God is able to do more than we can imagine. Is there something in your life right now that seems too big for God? Too hard for God? It isn't! Take it to Him in prayer, using the access He has provided for you, come boldly to the throne and make your request known.

***Memory Verse***

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy  
and find grace to help in time of need...”*

*Hebrews 4:16*