

# Blueprints for the Believer

## 1. Paul's Calling and Suffering

### (Ephesians 3:1-3)

Paul identifies himself as a prisoner of Christ for the sake of the Gentiles. He was given the revelation of the "mystery," something hidden in the past but now revealed through God's grace. Just as Paul saw his hardship as part of God's plan, we can view our challenges as opportunities for ministry.

- a. For this Reason
- b. I, Paul
- c. Prisoner of Christ

Question 1: How can we view our own challenges or hardships as part of God's plan, just as Paul did?

## 2. The Mystery of Christ Revealed

### (Ephesians 3:4-6)

The mystery: God's plan is to include the Gentiles as fellow heirs, forming one united body through the Gospel. God's Plan was hidden in ages past but is now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets. We are called to live as part of this unified body, free from division and hostility.

- a. συνιέναι (synienai)
- b. σύνεσις (synesis)
- c. ἀποκαλύπτω (apokalyptō)

Question 2: In what ways can we actively live out the unity that Christ has brought between people of different backgrounds?

### 3. Paul's Ministry Empowered by Grace (Ephesians 3:7-9)

Paul's ministry was not from his own strength, but by the grace and power of God. He preached the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles, sharing the treasures of the Gospel. God's grace empowers you in your daily life. We can humbly serve others through that grace.

- a. **διάκονος (diakonos)**
- b. **ἐνέργεια (energeia)**
- c. **φωτίζω (photizō)**
- d. **οἰκονομία (oikonomia) , μυστήριον (mystērion)**

Question 3: How has God's grace equipped you to serve others, and how can we humbly embrace this calling?

### 4. The Church's Role in Revealing God's Wisdom (Ephesians 3:10-11)

Through the church, God's manifold wisdom is revealed to both humanity and spiritual beings. God's eternal purpose was accomplished in Christ, bringing Jew and Gentile together under one covenant.

The church is not only a witness to the world but also to spiritual forces, revealing God's eternal plan. We are called to live with the awareness that our actions and faith have implications beyond the physical realm, demonstrating God's wisdom to both the seen and unseen.

- a. "Through the church"
- b. "According to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Question 4.** How does the church, as the vessel of God's eternal purpose, reveal His wisdom to both the seen and unseen realms?