

Paul's Mystery: Part 2 of 2
Flying through Ephesians

Ephesians 3:8–13
INTRODUCTION

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Review of the Exposition:

- 1:3–14 Gentile believers should praise the Father for what the Trinity did for Jews first
- 1:15–23 Paul [a Jewish believer] thankfully prays for the enlightened Ephesian Gentile believers that they would know their calling in hope, their rich inheritance, & how powerfully the Father works for believers w/ His power that raised & seated Christ
- 2:1–10 Despite Jews & Gentiles being dead, God made alive, raised, & seated them together w/ Christ (saving separated – from – God - people by grace through faith) so they cannot boast but that His created Church would do the good works He prepared for it.
- 2:11–13 These now alive & near-to-God Gentiles are to remember their former alienation
- 2:14–22 Christ effected peace between alienated Jews & Gentiles when he made both one & broke down the dividing Law & He reconciled both to God, so Gentiles are no longer aliens, but fellow citizens with the saints, having been built (along w/ Jews) into a holy temple that is God's habitation—the Church.
- 3:1–7, 13 Paul [requests that they not lose heart at his imprisonment] on behalf of the Gentiles, because he assumes that they know of the grace (spiritual gift) given to Paul, namely that God revealed the previously unrevealed mystery to the apostles and NT prophets [e.g., that some Gentiles would be fellow heirs, of the same body, and fellow partakers (with some Jews)]

New Exposition

3:8 God gave undeserving Paul grace (apostleship) for proclaiming to Gentiles the rich (inheritance) Christ gives to the Church

3:9 [God also gave undeserving Paul grace (apostleship) for enlightening] everyone concerning the mystery dispensation—the Church—that has been hidden in God (who created everything through Christ) ever since the ages began

How complete was the mystery?

Uses of *oikonomia* in Ephesians:
Ephesians 1:9–10

Ephesians 3:2

Ephesians 3:9

3:10–11 The purpose for God giving Paul a gift for enlightening all concerning the mystery dispensation—the Church—is that the Church would be the instrument for enlightening the demonic powers about God’s great eternal plan accomplished by Christ who gives us boldness and access through faith in Him

3:13a [In light of God giving Paul apostleship for preaching to Gentiles the rich inheritance Christ gives to the Church and for enlightening everyone concerning the Church] the Ephesians should not lose heart over Paul’s imprisonment

3:13b [The reason they should not lose heart over Paul’s imprisonment is] because (his message, that resulted in) imprisonment is their glory

A parallel in Colossians

Background in Acts 21

Application