

“Live a Life Worthy of Your Calling” *The Mysterious Good News of the Gospel* (3:1-13)

When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles . . . ² assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. ³ As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed **his mysterious plan to me**. ⁴ As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. ⁵ God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets.

⁶ And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. ⁷ By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. ⁸ Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. ⁹ I was chosen to explain to everyone **this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning**.

¹⁰ God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence. ¹³ So please don’t lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

The Mystery of How the Good News Heals

“Both Jew and Gentile...”

Romans 5:6-11

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Romans 2:4 ...the mercy of God leads us to repentance...

The Mystery of How the Good News Unifies

“Share equally in the riches inherited...both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings...”

Ephesians 5:21-31

- *“Submit to one another...”*
- *“The two become united into one...”*
- *“Love as the other as you do yourself...”*
- *“This is a **great mystery** but it illustrates the way Christ and the church are one...”*

Philippians 2:3-4

*With humility consider one another as **more important than yourselves**; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

The Mystery of How the Good News Empowers

"God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety..."

Luke 9:23-25

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the one who will save it. ²⁵ For what good does it do a person if he gains the whole world, but loses or forfeits himself?"

Philippians 3:10-11

I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.