

PAUL'S VIEW OF HIMSELF AND HIS MINISTRY
EPH. 3:1-13

Introduction:

- A. Paul has concluded his unfolding of the mystery, hidden from the beginning.
 - 1. 2:19-22.
 - 2. No one could know unless God revealed it.

- B. He then begins a statement that indicates his desire for them in prayer.
 - 1. "for this cause," v1 "I bow my knee." v14.
 - 2. He then interrupts himself with a statement about himself and his work.
 - 3. The parentheses continues to verse 14.

- C. Paul does not apologize for his statements.
 - 1. They are made to inform.
 - 2. They are made as a defense.

I. PAUL, A PRISONER. V1..

- A. "I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ."
 - 1. prisoner = *dismios* = binding, bound, a captive.
 - 2. Paul is bound by and to Jesus Christ, love and truth

- B. "for you Gentiles."
 - 1. gentiles = *ethnos* = host, multitude, custom, usage.
 - 2. Everyone who is not a Jew is a Gentile.

II. PAUL, AN ADMINISTRATOR. V2

- A. "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God." [the administrative activity of the God.]
 - 1. dispensation = *oikonomia* = owner, or steward of a household.

B. "which is given me to you-ward."

1. given = dotheises = given, not earned.
2. you-ward = on your behalf, for your sakes.

III. PAUL, THE APOSTLE. U3-5

A. Only two offices received special spirit revealed facts from God. v5b

1. "as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." v5b
2. Paul has always conscience of the attempt of some to argue that he did not qualify as an Apostle.

B. Paul was taught by the Lord.

1. "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery." v3a
 - a. revelation = apokalupsois = unveiling, uncovering.
 - b. mystery = musterion = a secret, unrevealed truth
2. Paul had written this truth before.
 - a. "as I wrote afore in few words."
 - b. v4.
3. He was not taught new truth but truth hidden in God.
 - a. "which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men."

IV. PAUL, THE MINISTER. U6,7

A. "whereof I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power."

1. minister = leitourgos = a server in an office.
2. gift = doria = an honorary gift, a present.
3. effectual working = energeia = power in action.

B. "that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel."

1. fellowheirs = klironokos = one who has a portion already.
2. same body = sussomos = united in the same body.
3. partakers of his promise = summetochog = a joint sharer.

VI. PAUL, THE "LEASTER." UBa

- A. "unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given."
 1. less = elachisroteros = less than the least, the smallester, Paul may have coined a new word.
- B. "is this grace given."
 1. given = grace or office given.
 2. It is never earned or deserved.

VI. PAUL, THE PREACHER. U9b

- A. "that I should preach among the gentiles."
 1. preach = euaggelizo = to bring a joyful message.
 2. Gentiles = ethnos.
- B. "the unsearchable riches of Christ."
 1. unsearchable = anezereunetos = that which cannot be traced out, not found by searching.
 2. riches = plousios = abounding in riches.
- C. "and to make all men see (bring to light) what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."
 1. fellowship = oikonomia = stewardship.
 2. mystery = musterion = secret.
 3. hid = having been hidden.
 4. in God = in the creating God.

D. "to the intent that now unto the principailities and power in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."

1. intent = hina = to the end that, result.
2. principalities = arxhais = rulers.
3. powers = exousiais = authorities.
4. manifold = poikilos = various.

E. "according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord; In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."

1. purpose = prothesis = to think before action.
2. purposed = poieo = to make.
3. boldness = parrhesia = freedom of speech.
4. access = prosagoge = bringing to the presence of anyone.
5. confidence = pepoithesis = trust, assurance.

VI. PAUL, THE SUFFERING APOSTLE. V13

A. "wherefore, I desire that ye faint not at my.. tribulations for you, which is your glory."

1. desire = aiteo = to ask for something.
2. faint = ekkakeo = to turn out a coward.
3. tribulation = thlipsis = pressure from evils.

