

Ephesians 3

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles...that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery...of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel...

QUESTION: Who are the Gentiles? (*non-Jews*)

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

QUESTION: What is grace? (5485 “...of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith,...”)

SNACK/ACTIVITY: Put a mystery sign on a door that is locked. The secret isn’t brought OUT but rather we’re brought IN to see the secret. He makes known those things hidden in God in heavenly places. Use a key to show how He has made known--rather than us simply walking through the door. On the other side of the door, have a box with the “?” on it. Inside we had cookies--the brand? “Enjoy Life” because we have His life.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

QUESTION: What would you think of a man who declared the goodness, grace, mercy, faithfulness of God...while he was in prison, stoned, ridiculed, misjudged, lied about and hated by his peers?

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

CRAFT (Step One)

Paper heart--write "Christ lives in my heart"

and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

CRAFT (Step Two)

Color and cut out the four strips of paper and fold them accordion-style

Tape the ends so that "breadth", "length", "height" and "depth" extend like arms.

To understand with all of the saints--stretch out the "arms" so that they touch one another's heart "arms" and extend past our own hearts as we... are filled up... to the fullness of God

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Eph 3:1-21 NAS95)



Mystery Inside

?

?

?

?

?

