

## THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 3:1-21

Key Verses: 3:4-6

"In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

1. Read verses 1-2. Why did Paul say that he was a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of the Gentiles? Find out what you can about why he was in prison (1-2; Gal 2:12-14; Ac 19:21).
2. Read verses 3-6. How many times do you find the word "mystery" in this chapter? What is the mystery? What was Paul's special insight into the mystery of Christ? (3-6; Ex 19:5-6; Isa 2:3; Isa 9:6,7)
3. What is the "administration of God's grace" given to Paul? How does he fulfill it?
4. Read verse 6 again. Why is Paul's message in this verse revolutionary? (See Jn 4:9; Gal 2:14) What does it mean that the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel? (2 Ti 2:11-12; Ro 8:17) Members of one body? Sharers in the promise?
5. Read verses 7-13. How does Paul apply the mystery of the gospel to himself? What mission had God given him? What is God's intention and great purpose?
6. Why might the Ephesians be discouraged? How did Paul encourage them? (13)
7. Read verses 14-21. As Paul kneels in prayer, what does he affirm about God? (14-15) What are his prayer topics for the Ephesians? (16,17)
8. How can we be strong in the inner person? (Ro 5:6-8) How can we claim God's promised power and presence? (17a; Col 2:6,7)
9. What does it mean to be rooted and established in love? (17b-19) Read the benediction, verses 20-21. What does Paul teach about God in these verses?