# The mystery of Christ

Ephesians 3:1-13

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# God's life-giving plan gives us a life-giving purpose.



#### Ephesians 3:1-3 NIV

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

#### Ephesians 3:4-6 NIV

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> 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.



#### Ephesians 3:7-9 NIV

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

#### Ephesians 3:10-11 NIV

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.



#### Ephesians 3:12-13 NIV

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

John 3:1-2 NIV not with him."

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were

"To the Ephesians, Paul's being under arrest may have made the outlook seem bleak, but the outlook was clear. God had not lost sight of Paul, and He doesn't lose sight of us either."

- Chuck Swindoll

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