

## Ephesians Class Study Notes 2-19-2012

### Chapter 3:1-21

#### Vs. 1

Paul starts chapter 3 with a reference to verses 19 and 20 of chapter 2. In reference to verses 19 and 20 Paul says for this reason I became a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles. Then Paul stops abruptly and begins to talk about a mystery that was made known to him by revelation. We know Paul was chosen by God to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Gal. 1:15-17 and Gal. 2:7-8.

In verse 2-12, Paul explains the mystery that has been revealed to him by God. Our study guide tells us that verses 4 and 10 are the key verses through verse 13.

#### Vs. 2-4

In verse 2 and 3, Paul tells us that it was by God's grace this mystery was made known to him. In verse 4, Paul tells the Ephesians Church and us that by reading what is to follow in his letter we will be able to understand his insight into this mystery.

#### Vs.5-6

This mystery was not made known to men in ages past. However, it is now being revealed by the spirit of God to his Holy apostles and prophets. In verse 6 Paul reveals this mystery. That through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise of Christ Jesus. Col.3:11-12 makes this plain to all who believe. In Acts chapters 10 and 11, God makes it clear to Peter and all Jewish Christians, that the Gentiles are now included in the household of God.

#### Vs.7 -9

Paul seems to reaffirm his selection as an apostle to the Gentiles and he reaffirms the fact that this mystery was kept hidden in God from ages past.

Vs. 10-12

In verses 10-12, Paul tells us it was God's intent from the beginning that this mystery should be made known to everyone through the church, which is the body of Christ. This was God's eternal purpose which he accomplished in Jesus. In Christ and through faith in Christ, we may approach the Father with freedom and confidence.

Vs. 13

In verse 13, Paul takes up where he left off in verse 1. In verse 1 Paul tells the Ephesians he is a prisoner for their sake and in verse 13, he tells them not to be discouraged because of his suffering for them.

Vs.14-15

Our study guide tells us that verse 16 is the key verse in verses 14-21. Paul begins verse 14 with the reference to verse 12. Where he says in Jesus, and through faith in Jesus, we may approach the Father with freedom and confidence. So far in this letter to the Ephesians, Paul has been stressing the unity that Jesus has brought to the Jews and Gentiles. Jesus through his sacrifice on the cross and the establishment of his Church has destroyed the wall of hostility that existed between the two. Now, Paul begins to talk about all believers as being one family. Gen.1:26 & 27.

Vs. 16-19

In verses 16-19, Paul prays a powerful pray for all who belong to Christ. Col. 2:9-12.

Vs. 20-21

Here Paul reminds us of the awesome power of God the Father and his son Jesus. He tells us that to God be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever! Amen. Jesus said in John chapter 17 that he

had brought glory to the Father on earth by completing the work that he had given him to do. Matthew 28:18-20 tells us that we too can bring glory to God on earth by doing the work that he has prepared in advance for us to do.