

EPHESIANS 3 vs 1

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¹ **For this cause** / for this reason... on this account... in favor of this... of what? Paul just told us about how through Jesus Christ the two: the Jewish people and the non-Jewish Gentiles are made one, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the chief corner stone. And they are being built into a holy temple dwelling, a habitation of God through His Spirit

For this cause, I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ / many times, Paul was thrown into prison as he traveled throughout the roman empire preaching the Good News... but notice, he is not really talking about that. Here, he says he is in bonds... what holds him captive.

I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ... for you Gentiles / for the *ethnos*; all the non-Jewish nations and peoples,

² **If you heard of the dispensation** / the *oikonomia*; it is where we get the word: economy; and we know what economy means... as we observe the lousy mishandling and misappropriating of funds in our times given to worthless politicians, and thieves and robbers... to govern the nations. But Paul is talking about God's economy; how God manages and administrates and oversees His household affairs.

If you heard of the house rules / the economy... of the grace of God ...in other words: Paul tells us how God runs His kingdom, wherever it reaches in every generation, and it is by grace. God's household is effectively managed by the power of God's grace,

which is given me to you:

³ **How that by revelation** / by *apokalupsis*; apocalypse, it's the revealing and uncovering word. Knowing this truth comes from the Spirit of God who reveals; it does not come, it cannot come any other way.

How that by revelation... He made known to me the mystery / the *musterion*; this mystery was a great mystery -- a secret of God's will that relates to Jesus the Christ and good news and fellowship... previously planned; God likes a good mystery, too! In Matthew 13, Jesus said to His disciples, to you has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God.

Paul says...

He made known to me the mystery / which is no longer a mystery;

as I wrote before in few words / as he mentioned briefly in chapter 1; and will mention 6 times in this little letter,

⁴ **Whereby, when you read, you can understand** / the word is: *noieo*; it is what we know... or think we know. It is part of that *METANOEO* word that means... *to change our thinking*: something we need to do regularly. Paul wants us to exercise our minds...

when you read, you can understand

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my knowledge in the mystery of Christ / and pay attention: Paul writes about his knowledge; and knowledge is the necessary information needed... to act appropriately; his *sunesis*... more precisely, his **mentally putting it together**... of this mystery -- that is no longer a mystery. He wrote about it in great detail to the Colossians. **God our Father wants us to... mind Christ!** To pay attention to Him; to mentally put together this good news that was once... a mystery.

⁵ **which to other ages** / in other generations,

was **not** made known to the sons of men,

as it is now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

And now, Paul tells us more about the once unknown mystery...

⁶ **That the Gentiles** / all the nations; all the non-Jewish people... can you imagine?

That the Gentiles...

should be **joint-heirs** / the word is: *sugkleronomos*,

and joint-members / this word is: *sussomos* ... said differently: **no separate but equal members**. Hmm? women and races... are equal to men?! Wow! More precisely: **same body**... because there is only ONE Body! You know, in every generation... God always sends people of other nations... the stranger... and foreigner into our gatherings and assemblies, just to see how they are treated,

and joint-partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:

And did you hear that? Paul is writing to **the Gentiles**. Notice he did **not** say: to the Christians. He said: to the Gentiles. Now, I bet... some Christians are Gentiles. You know, there are some people that go around saying (well yelling), or at best joylessly asking like inquisitors: ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?! Nope! That is not Paul. He is writing to Gentiles.

Are you a Gentile? Then Paul is writing to you. He is writing to the growing Body of the disciples of the Lord Jesus... whoever they are, wherever he finds them! Lifelong learners... young and old who are discovering they, too are chosen of God. The danger of chosen people... is that they tend to like their privilege, don't they? Well, that's not why they were chosen. It is our privilege to be responsible; not prideful. And this letter is directed to... those who previously were: aliens... and acrobats... that they too... should be:

joint-heirs,

and joint-members,

and joint-partakers of His promise in Christ... by the gospel / and that's Good News! Isn't it?!

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⁷ **whereof** / to this...

I was made a minister / a *diakonos*; a deacon... And what to ministers do?

1. They shout at the top of their lungs: *Glory to God in the highest...* and sing the praises of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord... in such a joyous way... that common folk will stop and say: let's go check it out!

2. They stand silently at the cross... while Jesus does all the talking.

3. They clean tables and serve meals... and probably scrub toilets, too; and then give their last breath for Jesus Christ. Now days, unlike Paul... some people think they are above all those important activities.

I was made a minister... according to the gift of the grace of God

given to me by the effectual working of His power / Paul as a deacon, he was energized by God's spiritual dynamite... that alone can crack through hard-heads. God's power is... powerful. Now days, cameras zoom in on fizzles... and sputters... and all that human effort. That's not God's power.

Paul is still amazed of God's power; he says...

⁸ **to me** / to Paul... the power and energizing of God was amazing... and humbling;

to me, the very least of all saints / remember: that word is *hagios*; it is the same word for: **holy**. Paul who had caused people to deny their faith; who with the violence of a fanatical terrorist... went about destroying the early church... until the power of God grabbed him and threw him down! Paul knew he should have been dead! And for all his life, God graciously made sure... he never forgot.

to me, the very least of all holy...

is this grace given / it is always... and only... by God's grace. It's a gift; given to all of us; given to each of us with no merit involved. It is a gift from Father God. The reformers clearly spelled it out right: **Sola** scriptura; **solo** faith; **solo** God! **solo** Christ! **solo** grace!

to me, is this grace given,

that I should preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches / this word is: *anexichniaston*; Paul is telling us, you cannot trace these riches; you cannot copy them.

that I should preach...

the... riches of Christ / this costly, inestimably valuable mystery... it's about Christ; not to be copied and not to be imitated by anyone. And who wants a cheap imitation, anyways?

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⁹ **And to make all men see** / the word is: *phōtisai*; it's a photon word; like turning a prism and showing all spectrums of color... seeing all the multicolored rays of light; describing...

what is the *oikonomia* / what is God's household economy and governing rules,

of the mystery / in other words; the Father God's secret plan of how He planned to run His house. Apparently, God can keep a secret... even in eternity;

which from the beginning of the world

has been concealed by God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

And for what reason did He do that?

¹⁰ **To the intent that the principalities** / the *archais*; the rulers, like regional monarchies;

and powers / and *exousiais*; and authorities... like large systems managers;

in the heavenlies / Paul in chapter 1 already talked about... these diverse spiritual rulers and authorities and powers -- both good and bad rulers... in heaven. At the end of this letter, he will speak about the spiritual battle going on! In essence Paul says... that these rulers who are looking on... from the heavens... and observing this mystery unfold;

that principalities and powers in heaven...

now might come to know... through the church the manifold / the multi-colored...

Wisdom of God / Christ... is the Wisdom of God. What? So, pause and put it all together: this verse includes even the rebellious 1/3rd of heaven -- all those dimwits. God was not just singing to the choir. He makes everyone in the heavenlies pay attention; all those powerful onlookers... the good ones, and the bad ones... all of them observing from eternity. Said differently: God will have the last laugh... through all us stumble bums here on earth that make up: the Love of His Life -- the church... He is building!

So, hear it again...

To the intent that... in the heavenlies... all of them might come to know...

through the church... the manifold Wisdom of God / God our Father is pretty smart; isn't He?! And He's a good Teacher, too!

Verse ¹¹ According to the eternal purpose which He purposed

in Christ Jesus our Lord / which THEY previously planned long ago, in the beginning:

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¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence

by the faith of Him / here, we learn: God our Father isn't a talker only, He's a faither; He acts in faith, too – He's the Faither of faithers!

¹³ Wherefore / Paul says, what is this all said for?

I desire that you do **not faint at my tribulations for you,**

which is your glory / your what? In other words, don't lose heart at my tribulations. Use my troubles as your opportunity to boast about the Lord... who will jump in and help us!

Verse **¹⁴ For this cause, I bow my knees**

to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁵ for whom the whole family in heaven

and earth is named / you know, there is only one family that matters; with one Father. And if there is any question to whom Paul bows down, it sure wasn't Peter.

Paul says...

to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ / any other pretenders or claimants of fatherhood, who dream they are over this family... are freaks or perverts... and perhaps pedophiles!

For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁶ that He would grant you,

according to the riches of His glory / and is that HIS costly glory, His reason why He boasts? The apostle John says: *Christ Jesus is the Glory of God*. And Paul wants us to hear it: God our Father loves to brag... about His only begotten Son -- Jesus Christ our Lord,

that He would grant you...

according to the riches of His glory...

to be strengthened with power / actually,

to be empowered with His might

by His Spirit in the inner man;

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¹⁷ **that Christ dwells in your hearts** / that Christ may settle in; and be at home,

in your hearts... by faith;

that you, being rooted and grounded in love / Paul is talking about a foundation established by God our Father... built on love, the welfare and concern for Him, and for one another... that's it,

¹⁸ **with enough strength to comprehend** / Paul says, **to seize**; to reach and grasp

to comprehend with all saints / both living and dead... all in the whole household of God,

what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height / the *platos*, the *mekos*, the *bathos*, the *uposos*... to comprehend the incomprehensible, together to know the multi-color dimensions of God's love;

¹⁹ **and to know the love of Christ** / not only to know the Father's love, but also know His Son's love,

which passes / the word is: *uperballousan*... the Son's great love which exceeds all other acts of love. Now days in baseball, we would say: it was not just a home run, but He hit the ball out of the park!

to know the love of Christ...

which super exceeds knowledge,

that you be filled up... to all the fullness of God / to all that God measures out; and wants to measure out... to each of us.

²⁰ **Now to Him... who empowers to do super-abundantly...**

beyond all we ask or think,

according to the power that works in us / that energizes within us,

²¹ **Δόξα ... Glory to Him... in the church**

the **ἐκκλησία**, the word is: *ekklesia*. In some countries, young people grow up... thinking there is only one church. Well, that is true. It is the church Jesus told us about; He said, *I will build My church*... it is **the Love of His Life -- His Bride** -- His people... made without even one brick or stone... or blockhead. Paul just said... made of Jewish and Gentile peoples... being made into one habitation of God by His Spirit:

Glory to Him / to Him be glory... in the church

by Christ Jesus

throughout all ages, forever and ever. Amen!