

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Sep Eph 1:1-14 God’s Plan is Eternal
- 2) 12 Sep Eph 1:15-23 God’s Plan Involves Power
- 3) 19 Sept Eph 2:1-10 God’s Power Changes People
- 4) 26 Sep Eph 2:11-22 God’s Power Changes Relationships
- 5) **03 Oct Eph 3:1-13 God’s Power Comes by Grace**
- 6) 10 Oct Eph 3:14-21 God’s Power Provides Strength
- 7) 17 Oct Eph 4:1-16 Being in Step
- 8) 24 Oct Eph 4:17-32 Being Different
- 9) 31 Oct Eph 5:1-14 Being Pure
- 10) 07 Nov Eph 5:15-21 Being Careful
- 11) 14 Nov Eph 5:22-33 Being Married
- 12) 21 Nov Eph 6:1-9 Being Respectful
- 13) 28 Nov Eph 6:10-24 Being Prepared

INTRODUCTION

- The mystery of Christ is fully revealed – Gentiles are fellow heirs through the Gospel

Passage	Comments
Eph 3:1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was put in prison for saving Gentiles • Yet he was not a prisoner of Rome, but of Christ • For those of us who have not yet resisted unto blood (Heb 12:4) this is hard to comprehend • For his troubles Apostle Paul was deemed worthy to receive a special revelation from God
3:4-6	<p>Mystery Revealed – Gentiles can be Saved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why God did not make clear His intentions to Old Testament Prophets is still a mystery, though it was stated that Abraham’s seed (Jesus Christ) would be a blessing to all nations Gen 22:18 • God’s ways are not our ways Isaiah 55:9 • Other Mysteries Christ revealed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Thinking bad thoughts is just as bad as doing bad things Mat 5:28 ♦ All meats are now “clean” to eat Acts 10:15
3:7-11	<p>Paul’s Special Calling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was called specifically by God to accomplish a special mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Viewed as a gift of God and not a curse to be beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked and stoned ♦ “...according to the working of His power” and “...according to His eternal purpose” – in other words, only God knows the reason why ♦ Mission #1: Preach the ‘unfathomable’ riches of Christ to the Gentiles – and it was not a Mission Impossible ♦ Mission #2: Reveal in detail the mystery of the Gentiles being included in God’s salvation plan ♦ Side Note: God created everything (v9b) – another ding against evolution ♦ The Goal: The manifold or detailed wisdom of God is made known to all the heavenly rulers – In other words, God’s glory is spread from one end of His kingdom to the other
3:12	<p>Another End Result of Paul Preaching Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now have BOLD access to the Throne of Grace – we will not be turned away, and our requests will not fall on deaf ears Barnes Commentary – “Boldness is not rashness, and faith is not presumption; but we may come without hesitating, and with an assurance that our prayers will be heard.”

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...and our access is granted “through faith in Him” - Just the simple act of praying to God exhibits we have faith in Him. • The writer of Hebrews understood this BOLD concept. See Heb 4:16; 10:19, 35 below
3:13	<p>Don’t Feel Bad for Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was the fault of the Gentiles Paul was thrown in prison, but he told them don’t fret – it was for their good he was imprisoned WHY? - possibly to embolden them to witness for Christ

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

- Gen 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.
- Isa 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways...
- Heb 12:4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
- Heb 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Heb 10:19 ¶ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
- Heb 10:35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Be sure to thank God for using men like Paul, who saw the big picture, and who sacrificed themselves to reach people like us

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 3:14-21. Paul prays for his listeners to grow spiritually



“I know there’s no sunshine down here, but I bet we still get good vitamin D from the flames!”