

We Interrupt This Prayer...

Life in Christ: Wealth, Walk, Warfare (Ephesians) – Part 70

Ephesians 3:1-13

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Copperfield Bible Church

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you, the Gentiles – ² assuming that ¹ you heard of the stewardship, ² which is ³ the grace of God given to me for you, ³ that by revelation the mystery was made known to me (just as I wrote before in brief), ⁴ respecting ⁴ which you are able, while reading, to perceive my comprehension in the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as now it has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, ⁶ that the Gentiles are ⁵ co-inheritors and co-body-members and co-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the good news, ⁷ of which I was made a servant by virtue of the gift, which is the grace of God given to me by virtue of the working ⁶ of His power.

⁸ To me, less than the least ⁷ of all holy ones, was this grace given: to tell the good news of the untrackable wealth of Christ, ⁹ and to enlighten all *as to* what is the stewardship of the mystery which has been hidden away from the ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ in order that *it* might be made known now to the rulers and to the authorities in the heavenlies through the church: *namely*, the multifaceted wisdom of God — ¹¹ *made known* in accord with the plan ⁸ of the ages ⁹ which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access ¹⁰ in full assurance through faith in Him.

¹³ Therefore I ask *you* not to lose heart in my tribulations for you, for they ¹¹ are your glory. (*Ephesians 3:1-13 DJP*)

Introduction: This section helps us both in understanding and feeling

I. Paul's Prayer S_____ed (v. 1)

A. Int_____tion

B. Int_____tion

II. Paul's Prayer S_____ed: Paul's Stewardship of the Mystery (vv. 2-13)

A. P_____tion By Gracious _____tion (vv. 2-5)

1. Interpretation

2. Application

a. **Doctrinal:** The identity of the *mystery*

i. Supersessionism ("Replacement theology")

(1) Defined

¹ Literally *if, surely; or if indeed*.

² Or *administration*.

³ Literally *of*.

⁴ Or *in accord with* (referring back to what he'd written previously).

⁵ Literally *the Gentiles to be*; but giving content of *the mystery* (v. 4), not purpose.

⁶ Or *exertion, operation*.

⁷ Word probably coined by Paul; very literally "least-er."

⁸ Or *purpose*.

⁹ Or *eternal plan / purpose*.

¹⁰ Or *bold access*, as both are bound by one definite article.

¹¹ Literally *which*, but with a causative sense.

- (2) Justin Martyr
- (3) Augustine
- (4) Martin Luther
- (5) Louis Berkhof
- (6) Hermann Ridderbos
- (7) Bruce Waltke
- (8) Frame

ii. Scripture
Jeremiah ____:35-37

Ephesians __:14-15, 20; __:4-6

Colossians __:25-27

b. **Personal:**

B. P _____ tion By Gracious _____ ion (vv. 6-13)

- 1. Paul's concept (vv. 6-12)
 - a. The **mystery** (v. 6)

 - b. The **ministry** (vv. 7-9)

 - c. The **message** (vv. 10-11)

 - d. The **mercy** (v. 12)

- 2. Paul's concern (v. 13)