



# Revealer of Mysteries

*How to encourage others despite the circumstances*

## Ephesians 3:1-13

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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 men 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.

<sup>7</sup>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 God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable 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. <sup>10</sup>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 which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup>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.

(New International Version)

## Discussion Questions:

3:1 – What was Paul's situation when he wrote this?

3:2-6 – What had God given Paul to tell the Ephesians?

How does knowing the good news about eternal life with Christ make people better workers?

Why was the good news about Christ called a mystery?

How were people saved prior to Christ's sacrifice?

Why didn't God reveal the New Testament mysteries to the Old Testament saints?

Is God revealing mysteries to His people today?

How is it encouraging to know the mysteries of God?

3:7 – How did Paul get into the missionary business?

3:8 – Why did Paul call himself, "less than the least of all God's people?"

How did Paul describe what he preached to the Gentiles?

How does knowledge of the unsearchable riches of Christ help us to have better relationships with others?

3:9 – What was Paul seeking to make plain to everyone?

3:10-11 – What was God's plan to make His wisdom known?

To whom is God's wisdom to be made known?

Why would God plan to reveal His wisdom to those who rejected Him?

Why may we approach God with freedom & confidence?

3:13 – Why shouldn't the Ephesians be discouraged?

How do you think Paul's words encouraged the Ephesians?

How may we encourage others the way Paul encouraged the Ephesians?