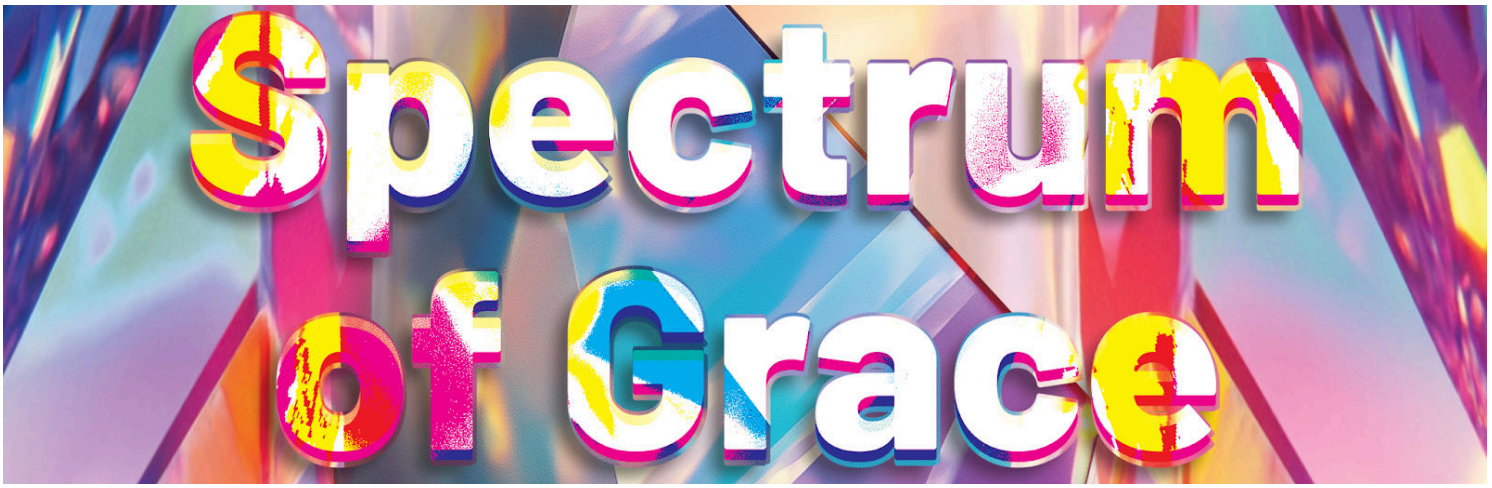
MESSAGE OUTLINE



Revelation of The Mystery

Ephesians 3:1-13 NKJV

Introduction

Today we will hear what Paul calls a mystery. God revealed to him His plans to reach the entire world. Paul now knows a mystery, and he wants the church and everyone to know it.

I, Paul...

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--

Paul is about to pray, but he immediately interrupts himself.

It might seem that prison is an odd place to tell the message and mystery of God—to the world.

Paul is giving us some OJT: he wants us to see he is a prisoner—not of Rome—rather a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Paul is not seeing his imprisonment as an obstacle to his mission, he is seeing it as a divine positioning.

He sees this as an opportunity and a platform to further his divine mission.

Do you see your difficult job, challenging relationships, marriage, finances, whatever tough spot you are in—as a divine position—put there to bring God glory?

The Bible says, *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.* **Colossians 3:2**

So see your little prison as your platform to show Him to the world.

The Mystery Unfolds

2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

The word dispensation is from the Greek word *oikonomian* to govern or an administration.

It also has a feeling of either inclusion or exclusion like family or kingdom.

So Paul shows them again the mystery: ***6*** *that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel..*

Paul had already ministered in Ephesus there in the past. Instead here, he is working on "a graduate course."

So the talk of dispensations is mysterious. But once you see it, you can't unsee it.

Isaiah 11:10, which says, *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."*

Paul knows this is a fulfillment of this prophecy: the Kingdom is a gathering of the nations including Israel.

The new humanity is the Church, and has no border. It is a global movement.

God's plan of world peace is not through war and conquest, rather by seeing yourself as a sinner.

Don't think about who is better than who. Because there's power in unity!

That family is the Church. And the Church is global.

Our Power

6...the gospel 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

v.7 The power of the gospel, that is now working in Paul to preach the gospel "of unity" to the gentiles.

That... the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know **(because you don't)** *what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...* **Ephesians 1:17-19 NKJV**

We can have all the power in the world, but if it is not used, it means nothing.

Which begs the question, **how often do you pray?** ***There is power in prayer.*** **James 5:16 ESV**

That is the habit of Paul and should be the habit of us, but... we don't. If so, you are going to be years behind.

Do people see you as a praying person? What I mean is, do you encourage others to pray, *believer?*

So encourage others to join and join others in prayer.

The Mystery on Display

9 and to make all see what [is] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly [places] 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Paul wants to make *all* see the "fellowship" of the mystery. And by all, he is not just talking about us...
Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
Colossians 2:15

The fellowship is God's work and plan from the beginning. Not by our work, but by His.

In v.10 Paul is talking about waving our glory in front of the angels and demons—spiritual beings.

"For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more." **Psalm 103:14-16**

God's grace is given to shame them: *"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty."* **1 Corinthians 1:27**

In **Genesis 1:26-27** when God said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* Satan fears that.

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. **Galatians 4:4-7**

Even though we fell like Satan, deserving the same wrath, God saved us in Christ Jesus:

12 *in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*

So now, we have such authority, we can go right into the presence of God.

...boldly [go] *to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* **Hebrews 4:16**

What does this mean? ***It means pray!***

13 *Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*
Paul's trial was every reason why he was in a position to pray.

CONCLUSION

1. **See trials as your platform for prayer.**
2. **Let your awe of God's sovereignty and Christ's power motivate you to pray.**
3. **Stay united and pray powerfully for each other.**
4. **Pray with confidence, knowing in Christ, you have access to God.**
5. **Do not fear or lose heart when attacked.**

Why are we still having tribulations? Because Satan hates us. And wanted to destroy us by God judging us.
Now: 1 Corinthians 15:57 *"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
Future: 1 Corinthians 6:3a ERV *"Do you not know that we shall judge angels?*

Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee. **James 4:7** "Submit" means to "position oneself" "under".
No matter what you are going through: **position yourself under Him**, cry out to Him. The devil will flee.

INVITATION

In **John 16:33**, Jesus says *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Receive the peace of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Trust in Him. When we do, you are forgiven. And then you have nothing to fear, but as a child of the Father in Heaven, we can go to Him for anything.

Jesus said, *Do not be afraid; only believe.* **(Mark 5:36)**

Just believe.

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
October 25-26, 2025

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