

# Ephesians

## A Good Mystery

**Key Scripture:**

Ephesians 5:25-27 NLT

25...**Christ loved the church.** He gave up His life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to Himself **as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle** or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

### A Good Mystery...

Ephesians 3:1-4 NLT

1 When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles... 2 assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending His grace to you Gentiles. 3 As I briefly wrote earlier, **God Himself revealed His mysterious plan** to me. 4 As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ.

### Understanding the mystery...

- ✓ **The "mystery" was kept secret a long time.**

Ephesians 3:9 NLT

I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had **kept secret from the beginning.**

- ✓ **The Holy Spirit reveals the "mystery".**

Ephesians 3:5 NLT

God did not reveal it to previous generations, but **now by His Spirit He has revealed it** to His holy apostles and prophets.

- ✓ **The "mystery" is Good News to those who believe.**

Ephesians 3:6 NLT

And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews **who believe the Good News** share equally in the riches inherited by God's children...

- ✓ **An obstacle to the revelation of God's mysterious plan can be us.**

Ephesians 3:8 Message

When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, **I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians.** God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities. And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### The Lord's Purpose for you...

1. **DETERMINE in your heart to be a partaker.**

Ephesians 3:6 NASU

the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and **fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel**

- ✓ **What promise of God would you like to partake of? \_\_\_\_\_**

2. **DISPLAY the wisdom of God to others.**

Ephesians 3:10-12 NIV

10 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, 11 according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

- ✓ **What would you like others to see in you? \_\_\_\_\_**

3. **DEVELOP your relationship with God.**

Ephesians 3:14-19 NLT

14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and **pray to the Father,** 15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. 16 I pray that from His glorious, **unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit.** 17 Then **Christ will make his home in your hearts** as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. 18 And may **you have the power to understand,** as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep **His love** is. 19 May **you experience the love of Christ,** though it is too great to understand fully. Then **you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.**

4. **DEMONSTRATE the power of God.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 NASU

20 Now to **Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,** 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen

- ✓ **What do you want God to do through you that will glorify Him?**

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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