

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

The Secret Revealed

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Ephesians 3:1-13

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Book Theme: The Eternal Plan of God

Book Theme Verse: Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Outline

I.	Position of the Christian	1-3
II.	Practice of the Christian	4-8

Lesson Verse: Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

The emphasis in the verses today is on the impact on the position of the Christian as a result of the mystery revealed to Paul

Theme: The mystery of Christ is understood in three ways in our passage today – by the revelation of the mystery, the explanation of the mystery and the determination of the mystery

- I. The Revelation of the Mystery
- II. The Explanation of the Mystery
- III. The Determination of the Mystery

I. The Revelation of the Mystery 1-5

1. The mystery was revealed to Paul by God and his preaching it put him in prison
2. The mystery was composed of two related secrets – one a subset of the other
 - a. The totality of the secret is of Christ -- secret is a person many elements
 - b. The subset of the secret is of the church -- Gentile and Jew reconciled into one body
3. The mystery was previously kept secret by God and hidden from past generations

4. The mystery as revealed to Paul was to be understood by everyone

II. The Explanation of the Mystery

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1. The Gentiles are joint heirs of an inheritance with Jews and all other believers
2. The Gentiles are joint members of the body of Christ with Jews and all other believers
3. The Gentiles are joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel with Jews and all other believers

III. The Determination of the Mystery

7-13

1. The eternal purpose of the mystery is carried out by Christ to glorify God the Father
 - a. To illuminate the mystery of Christ and the church
 - b. To manifest the wisdom of God through the church to the angels

In Tom's book All the World is a Stage – He identifies four audiences that will see and glorify God because of His display of grace in the world. The first audience is all humanity and the second audience is specifically the redeemed and the third audience is the angels. He refers to this passage:

But God also intended this display for a third audience—a group we rarely think about, yet a group of whom the Bible speaks often. That is the other intelligent beings God created besides mankind, the angels. The New Testament often portrays these powerful beings as spectators of God's work of redemption in the world. In Eph 3:10 the apostle Paul directly states that God intends the angels to be the audience.

2. The privilege revealed in the mystery is we have boldness and confident access to the Father, through faith in Christ Jesus

I. Application

1. If you are not a follower of Christ, you are not one redeemed by Christ and a citizen in His kingdom, member of His family or are part of His body. Your participation in the eternal plan of God will be as rebel against His will and a recipient of His wrath. But because you were here today, you heard of God's eternal plan for believers and you can cry out to God to save you!

2. The mystery of Christ and the eternal purpose of God have been revealed to us. We have been made ambassadors for Christ to bring this message to others. To Evangelize

Eph 3:6–7 Ro 1:15–16 2 Co 5:20

3. Angels are the audience of our participation in the church. Perform your service in the church for the glory of God to the encouragement of angels. To Serve

Eph 3:10 1 Pe 1:12 Lk 15:10

4. In Christ Jesus we are given access to the Father, be courageous and confident to pray as Jesus instructed us. To Pray

Mt 6:6 Lk 18:1 Jas 5:16