

# IMAGINE

experiencing the life you've always dreamed of

## Imagine...The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

**Ephesians 3:1-13 (NIV)**<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 (1) heirs together with Israel, (2) members together of one body, and (3) 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.

1. The first three chapters of Ephesians are focused on the doctrine of salvation. The last three chapters will be on the practice of salvation.
2. Paul uses measureless words to try and convey the vastness of God's blessings to those who have faith in Jesus.
3. Paul uses the word mystery around 20 times in his writing.
4. The gospel is described by Paul in this paragraph as a revealed mystery that has divine power, limitless riches, and intentional purpose.

## 1. The Gospel is effective because it has divine power

v 7

1. Paul did not receive his instruction from human wisdom. Gal. 1:11

**The gospel must be received by divine revelation  
with affirmation and confirmation by the Word of God v 3**

2. The truths of God are beyond human wisdom or logic and require divine wisdom procured by faith.
3. The gospel claimed Paul as a **prisoner** and a **servant**. V.1, 7
4. God's gift came to Paul through the **working** (energy) of His **power**. (dynamic)

## 2. The gospel is effective because it is limitless v 8

1. The gospel brings a new **family**. V 6
2. The gospel provides a new **economy**. - wealth so vast it is beyond measure

### 10 things we needed God provided listed in the first 3 chapters of Ephesians

1. Redemption 1:7,8
2. Love 1:4,5
3. Holiness 1:4
4. Purpose 1:9
5. Eternal inheritance 1:11,14
6. Hope 1:18
7. Power 1:19
8. Life 2:11-5
9. Peace 2:14-16
- 10 Access to God 2:18; 3:12

## 3. The gospel is effective because it is intentional v.10

1. The church has a **mission**.
2. The church has **access** to God.
3. The church has a **pattern**.
4. The church has been established to be a **witness** of the **manifold wisdom** of God.
5. The church embraces a spirit of **encouragement**.

**Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)** <sup>30</sup> *Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;* <sup>31</sup> *but those who hope (connect and unite) in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

1. divine **strength**
2. divine **victory**
3. Divine **vitality**
4. Divine **stability**