

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

(NT Survey Lesson 168--Ephesians 3)

Introduction: Paul continues in this chapter to emphasize the purpose of God and the power that is available to the Christian. Paul discusses his own role in God's plan to make Jew and Gentile one, a mystery that has now been made known through the gospel. The unified body, the church, is then a revelation of the manifold wisdom of God and the product of his eternal purpose. In view of that Paul prays once again that the Ephesians might let God's power work in their lives.

Lesson aim: To realize that we are the product of God's eternal purpose and a manifestation of his manifold wisdom, but only as we let His power work in us to His glory.

Paul's role in proclaiming the mystery of God--Ephesians 3:1-13

1. What exactly is the "mystery" that was "hidden" but has now been "revealed" by the apostles and prophets?
2. What did Paul have to do with this "mystery"? How was it made known to him? Did Paul write about it? Can we understand what he wrote about it?
3. What did God hope to accomplish through the administration of this "mystery"? (v. 10) How long before had God planned this? And through whom?
4. What was the state of Paul as the result of his work in preaching to the Gentiles? How did he want the Ephesians to respond? (see v. 13)
5. Can you see why the theme of Ephesians might be, "the church, the product of God's eternal purpose in Christ"? What verse in this section underscores that idea?
6. What is the premillennial concept of the church? How would Ephesians three refute this concept?
7. Does Paul use himself as an example of God's power at work?

Paul's prayer that the Ephesians may experience God's power- -Eph. 3:14-21

1. Compare this prayer with the first one in 1:15-19. How are they similar?
How different?
2. In what role is God described in v. 15?
3. What are the three requests of Paul to God?
4. How were the Ephesians to be strengthened? How does the Spirit strengthen the Christian in the inner man?
5. What would Christ then do to those so strengthened? What does this mean?
6. What did Paul want the Ephesians to know?
7. What does it mean to "be filled up unto all the fullness of God"?
8. What is God said to be able to do?
9. By what two people/groups of people is God glorified?