

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Paul the Preacher to the Gentiles

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

Q1. When Paul wrote that he was a “prisoner of Christ Jesus”, was he speaking figuratively or literally? (See Acts 28.16-31)

Q2. Why did Paul say “... for the sake of you Gentiles”? After all, Jesus declared to the Samaritan woman as written in John 4.22 that “...salvation is from the Jews.”

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

Q3. What did Paul mean when he said “the administration of God's grace”?

Q4. How could the people of Ephesus to whom Paul was writing be indirectly blessed by God’s grace “that was given to me for you”?

Q5. What was Paul referring to when he wrote “the mystery made known to me by revelation”? What is the “mystery”? What is the “revelation”? (See Galatians 1.12,17)

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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.

Q6. In verse 4, why would Christ be a “mystery”?

Q7. Jesus just walked the earth. Why did Paul write that the “mystery of Christ... was not made known to ... other generations as it has now been revealed”?

Q8. What special qualities did the Spirit of God give “to God's holy apostles and prophets”?

Q9. Is the Spirit of God as active today as he was 2,000 years ago?

⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Q10. What is the “mystery”?

Q11. What is the “promise in Christ Jesus”?

Q12. As an “heir”, what is our inheritance?

Q13. Last week we discussed in Ephesians 2.14 that “He... made the two one and... destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”. Who are the two people-groups... the heirs?

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Q14. How would you describe a servant?

Q15. How could a Christian be a “servant of this gospel”? Do you consider yourself to be a “servant of this gospel”?

⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Q16. Paul fulfilled his purpose as a great missionary. Why did he refer to himself as “less than the least of all God's people”?

Q17. God “created all things”. Why did He keep the “mystery... for ages past... hidden”?

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹⁰His 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, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q18. How would you describe “rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms”? (See 1 Peter 1.12 and Ephesians 6.12.)

Q19. What “eternal purpose” did God accomplish “in Christ Jesus our Lord”?

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Q20. If God is spirit (John 4.24), how can we “approach God”?

.....
.....

Q21. Is it easy to approach God in “freedom and confidence”?

.....
.....

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Q22. How did Paul suffer? (See 2 Corinthians 11.23-27)

.....
.....

Q23. How could Paul’s sufferings be to the Ephesians’ glory?

.....
.....

Q24. We have discussed at times about people who do not know Jesus. What happens when they die? In other words, where might they spend eternity?

.....
.....
.....

Romans 1.19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 2.14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, (15) since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

Matthew 25.14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. (15) To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. (16) The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. (17) So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. (18) But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

(19) "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. (20) The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

(21) "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

(22) "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

(23) "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

(24) "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. (25) So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

(26) "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? (27) Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

(28) " 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. (29) For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. (30) And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Q25. What might the “talents” represent?

Copyrights:

Questions: © For All Eternity on behalf of Christ Jesus.

Scripture: from the Holy Bible, New International Version [NIV] ©, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.