

Ephesians Series

Lesson #085

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Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

The Focus of our Spiritual Life and Ministry
Ephesians 3:2–7

**Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the
prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”**

**Τούτου χάριν, *toutou*
charin; “for this reason”**

Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

Τούτου χάριν, *toutou charin*; “for this reason”

Eph. 3:14, “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Eph. 3:13, “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

**ἐγκακέω *enkakeō*
pres act inf,
become tired, lose
heart, become
discouraged**

**θλίψις *thlipsis* fem
plur dat
trouble, tribulation,
oppression,
suffering**

**Acts 22:21, “Then He said to me, ‘Depart,
for I will send you far from here to the
Gentiles.’ ”**

Acts 26:17, “I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

Acts 26:18, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

Gal. 2:7, “But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

Gal. 2:8, “(for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

Gal. 2:9, “and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”

**Rom. 11:13, “For I speak to you Gentiles;
inasmuch as I am an apostle to the
Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,”**

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

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Eph. 3:13, “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

If the Ephesians fully understood God’s mission for Paul (and us), then they would not be discouraged by his (or anyone’s) apparently negative circumstances.

**We must understand the importance of
the *mystery!!!***

**We must understand the importance of
the *mystery!!!***

**Eph. 3:4, “By referring to this, when you
read you can understand my insight into
the mystery of Christ,”**

Questions

1. What is the meaning of “*the dispensation of the grace of God*”?

What is the significance of the phrase “*grace of God?*”

We must decide if we have “*the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me?*” or

“*the dispensation of [the grace of God which was given to me?]*”

Questions

- 2. Are vss. 3b–4 a parenthesis, as in the NKJV or not?**
- 3. What exactly is the mystery doctrine of vss. 5–7?**

Eph. 3:7, “of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

Eph. 3:7, “of which gospel I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

εὐαγγέλιον euaggelion

neut sing gen

good news, gospel

End of 3:6

“partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel”

**Eph. 3:7, “I became a minister of this
gospel according to the gift of the grace of
God given to me by the effective working
of His power.” ~RD**

Eph. 3:7, “I became a minister of this gospel according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.” ~RD

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

**δίδωμι *didomi*
aor pass part
fem sing gen
to give**

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Eph. 3:7, “of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

1. Frequently this phrase is used in connection with the spiritual gifts that God gives. Either the words *charismata* or *dorean* are used.

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

Rom. 12:6, “Since we have gifts [*charismata*] that differ according to the grace [*charis*] given [*didomi* aor pass ptcp] to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;”

2. Paul uses the phrase “grace given to me” to refer to his spiritual gift and office as an apostle.

1 Cor. 3:10, “According to *the grace of God which was given to me*, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.”

Rom. 12:3, “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

Eph. 3:7, “of which I was made a minister, according to **the gift [dorea] of God’s grace which was given to me** according to the working of His power.

Eph. 3:8, “To me, the very least of all saints, **this grace was given** [*didomi aor pass ind*], to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,”

Wealth/Riches of Christ (Eph. 1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16)

3. The mission God gave to Paul as an apostle was to proclaim the mystery doctrine of the church, Jew and Gentile united together as one new man, and one new body, and one new temple.

Eph. 3:8, “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach the good news to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [~RD]”

Eph. 3:9, “and to reveal to all what is the dispensation [administration] of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;”

4. **Conclusion:** *grace given to me* refers to Paul's apostolic gift/office and apostolic function.

Paul's designated mission as the apostle to the Gentiles. Acts 26:17–18; Gal. 2:7–8.

Paul's designated mission as the apostle to the Gentiles was his message that the barrier between Jew and Gentile, and man and God, was now removed (Eph. 2:12–14).

Acts 26:17–18; Gal. 2:7–8.

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,”

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,”

**ἀποκάλυψις
apokalupsis
fem sing acc
unveiling,
disclosure,
revelation**

**μυστήριον *mustēriōn*
neut sing dat
previously
unrevealed
information, secret**

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”

Comparison of degree: my cake is not as good as yours.

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”

Comparison of degree: my cake is not as good as yours.

Comparison of description:

She is not a teacher as he is.

Acts 2:15: “not drunk as you suppose”

Peter is not saying they’re a little drunk, but not drunk at all compared to what they claimed.

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”

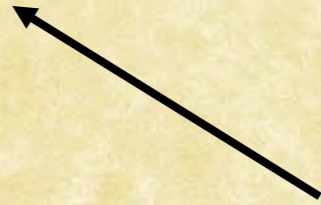
Eph. 3:5, “Which in previous ages was not made known to the human race, but now has been revealed to His holy [New Testament] apostles and [NT] prophets by the Spirit.” ~RD

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

- **fellow heirs *with the Jews***
- **fellow members of the same body**
- **fellow partakers of the promise**

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

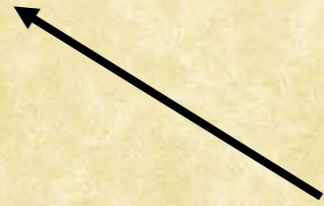
the dispensation of the grace of God



which was given to me

**i.e., the dispensation of
the Church Age was
given to Paul.**

the administration of the grace of God



which was given to me

**i.e., the dispensation of
the Church Age was
given to Paul.**

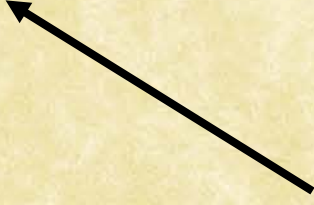
OR

the administration ...

of the grace of God which was given to me

the administration of the grace of God

**which was given to me
i.e., the dispensation of
the Church Age was
given to Paul.**



the administration ...

**of the grace of God which was given to me
i.e., the administration of the office and
function of apostleship which was given to me.
And my focus is on the communication of the
previously unrevealed information.**

Questions

1. What is the meaning of “*the dispensation of the grace of God*”?
the dispensing of Paul’s apostolic gift and ministry

What is the significance of the phrase “*grace of God*”? describes Paul’s gift

It is not the “dispensation of grace” which was given to me, but the dispensing or administration of Paul’s gift and ministry which was given to him for the Gentiles.

Questions

2. Are vss. 3b–4 a parenthesis, as in the NKJV or not? **NO**
3. What is *the mystery* doctrine made known to Paul? **The union of Jew and Gentile in one new man, new body, new temple.**

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed and you have heard of the dispensing of the grace of God which was given to me for you Gentiles,” [~RD]

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),”

Paul's mission and ours:

- 1. Is to teach about the new revelation which is the characteristic of this new dispensation.**
- 2. Understanding what God is doing in the Church Age will transform your response to adversity.**
- 3. We realize God has a plan and is working out that plan by bringing untold millions of Gentiles and Jews into a new man, new body, and new temple.**
- 4. Understanding our role in that should transform our thinking about why we are here and what God is doing through us.**