

## LIVING IN THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

*Ephesians 3:1-7*

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul reveals a “secret” that completely reshaped the course of human history. It is one that reunites enemies into one family. It breaks down racial barriers and gives ordinary people direct access to God. Paul calls this secret “the mystery of Christ”. He was imprisoned for it, commissioned to announce it, and empowered by God’s grace to serve it. It isn’t a puzzle you are supposed to solve; it’s a reality God chose to reveal.

### **I. PAUL’S CALLING AS A PRISONER AND STEWARD** *vv.1-2*

#### A. Paul is a prisoner of Christ and not Rome. *v.1*

1. When he says he is a “prisoner of Christ”, he is dismissing the power of Rome as being his captor. *Acts 28:16, 30-31*
2. He is enduring the suffering on behalf of the Gentiles. *Acts 26:16-18*
3. His chains are truly tied to his mission and not his mistakes. *Philippians 1:12-14*

#### B. Paul is a steward of grace. *v.2*

1. This is a divine appointment of stewardship, completely directed by God. *Galatians 1:10*
2. The emphasis is on the simple fact that this is God’s grace.
3. It was not something that Paul appointed to himself, but by God. *James 4:10*

#### C. This stewardship is aimed at others. *v.2*

1. Paul recognizes that the grace given to him included sharing it with others.
2. His calling was outward facing, focused on the Gentiles. *Galatians 2:9*

3. He recognized that his authority existed to serve, not to dominate. 2  
*Corinthians 13:10*

## II. THE REVELATION AND NATURE OF THE MYSTERY vv.3-5

### A. The mystery had been made known by divine revelation. v.3

1. Paul was given this revelation by the Holy Spirit and began to see how the message of grace all came together. *Galatians 1:11-12*
2. The message of grace is truly received from God and not discovered through human reasoning. 2 *Timothy 3:16*
3. Paul recognized that it originated from God and not through his clever insight. *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

### B. This mystery had not been previously disclosed. vv.3-5

1. Paul has written briefly about this already. *Ephesians 1:9-10*
2. Previous generations had not been made aware of the message of grace in the manner it was now being revealed. *Genesis 6:8-9*
3. There is a continuity with the Old Testament, but a new clarity in Christ. *Genesis 12:3, Hebrews 10:1,10-12, Isaiah 60:3*

### C. The mystery is now revealed by the Spirit to God's messengers. v.5

1. This message of grace for all mankind was revealed to his holy apostles and prophets.
2. This revelation came by the Holy Spirit and not by tradition. *1 Corinthians 2:13-14*
3. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals, unites and authorizes the message. *1 Corinthians 12:13*

### III. THE CONTENT AND COMMISSION OF THE MYSTERY vv.6-7

A. The Gentiles are included in three important ways. v.6

1. They are fellow heirs, having the same inheritance in Christ.
2. They are members of the same body with the same status in the one church.  
*Romans 12:4-5, Acts 6:2-3*
3. They are partakers of the promise through the gospel. *Acts 2:38-39*

B. The Gentiles are rooted in Christ through the Gospel. v.6

1. “In Christ Jesus” means that everyone who places their faith in Him is included. *John 17:21*
2. It comes through the gospel and not through the law.
3. The message, not ethnicity or effort, determines membership into the kingdom of God.

C. For this reason, Paul was made a minister by grace and power. v.7

1. Paul had become a minister of the gospel and not its inventor.
2. His ministry is according to the gift of God’s grace. *1 Corinthians 15:9*
3. His ministry operates by the working of God’s power and not Paul’s strength.  
*Colossians 1:28-29*

**CONCLUSION:** Paul shows us that our lives and callings are shaped by God’s grace, not our circumstances. As a prisoner of Christ and a steward of grace, he received a mystery now revealed—that in Christ, Jew and Gentile together are equal heirs, one body, sharing the same promises through the gospel. This comes not by effort or background, but by faith in Jesus. Like Paul, we are called and empowered by God to faithfully share this good news with others.