

I. The Exaltation of the Glory of the Grace of God and His Plan of Salvation in and through Christ (1:3-14)

II. The Enablement to Understand the Greatness of God and His Plan of Salvation in the sphere of Christ (1:15-23)

ἥτις ἐστὶν τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ “which is the body of Him”

ἥτις (“which”) defines the relationship of Christ and the Church in regards to His Headship:

It has qualitative force – pointing out that which belongs to the nature of the Church:

‘That which is by its very nature’ the body of Christ:

- The body of Christ is the fellowship of believers regarded as the organic, spiritual unity in living relation to Christ, subject to Him, animated by Him, and having His power operating in it:

I. The Exaltation of the Glory of the Grace of God and His Plan of Salvation in and through Christ (1:3-14)

II. The Enablement to Understand the Greatness of God and His Plan of Salvation in the sphere of Christ (1:15-23)

III. The Elaboration on the Great Power of God in Working out His Plan of Salvation in the sphere of Christ (2:1-3:21)

2:21 ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα οἰκοδομὴ συναρμολογούμενη αὔξει εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν κυρίῳ

The Mission of the Mystery

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

A. The man of the mission (ἐγὼ Παῦλος) (3:1)

1. Paul was a Leader in Jewish

Orthodoxy:

2. Paul is a Minister (δίακονος) (3:7)

3. Paul is a Prisoner (ὁ δέσμιος) (3:1)

‘It is on your behalf (ὕπερ ὑμῶν) that I am a prisoner – as you know, assuming that you have heard of my special mission to you (εἰς ὑμᾶς)’

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

A. The man of the mission (ἐγὼ Παῦλος) (3:1)

B. The nature of the mission (3:2-13)

1. Stewardship (οἰκονομίαν) (3:2-6)

a) The stewardship involves the grace of God (3:2a)

b) The stewardship of grace involves the Gentiles (“to you-ward” εἰς ὑμᾶς) (3:2b)

c) The stewardship involves a great mystery of redemption (3:3-6)

c) The stewardship involved a great mystery of redemption (3:3-6)

(1) The mention of the mystery (1:9ff.)

(a) The ultimate goal (1:10)

Gathering together all things under the Headship of Christ:

(b) The unique phase of the goal (3:3-6)

The inclusion of the Gentiles in the blessings of the gospel:

c) The stewardship involved a great mystery of redemption (3:3-6)

(1) The mention of the mystery (1:9ff.)

(2) The manner of the mystery’s disclosure (3:3-4)

(a) The manner of disclosure to Paul (κατὰ ἀποκάλυψιν ἐγνωρίσθη) (v. 3a)

- Not by research:

- Not by rationalism:

- Not by human instruction:

- But by Divine revelation:

c) The stewardship involved a great mystery of redemption (3:3-6)

(1) The mention of the mystery (1:9ff.)

(2) The manner of the mystery’s disclosure (3:3-4)

(a) The manner of disclosure to Paul (κατὰ ἀποκάλυψιν ἐγνωρίσθη) (v. 3a)

(b) The manner of disclosure to others

(καθὼς προέγραψα ἐν ἀλίγῳ πρὸς ὃ δύνασθε ἀναγινώσκοντες νοῆσαι) (v. 3b-4)

- Written:

- To be read:

c) The stewardship involved a great mystery of redemption (3:3-6)

- (1) The mention of the mystery (1:9ff.)
- (2) The manner of the mystery's disclosure (3:3-4)
- (3) The time of the mystery's disclosure (3:5)
 - (a) Not in other generations (*ὅ ἐτέραις γενεαῖς οὐκ ἐγνωρίσθη*) (v. 5a):
 - (b) Not to sons of men (*τοῖς υἱοῖς τῶν ἀνθρώπων*) (v. 5a):
 - (c) But in the now age (*ὡς νῦν ἀπεκαλύφθη*) (v. 5b):
 - (d) But to the holy apostles and prophets of Him (*τοῖς ἁγίοις ἀποστόλοις αὐτοῦ καὶ προφήταις*) (v. 5b):

c) The stewardship involved a great mystery of redemption (3:3-6)

- (1) The mention of the mystery (1:9ff.)
- (2) The manner of the mystery's disclosure (3:3-4)
- (3) The time of the mystery's disclosure (3:5)
- (4) The content of the mystery disclosed (3:6)
 - Gentiles are –
 - (a) Fellow-heirs:
 - (b) Fellow-members of the body:
 - (c) Fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel:

God now wants all people to know this great gospel secret:

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

- A. *The man of the mission (ἔγὼ Παῦλος)* (3:1)
- B. *The nature of the mission (3:2-13)*
 1. Stewardship (3:2-6)
 2. Service (*διάκονος*) (3:7-12)
 - This term is used 29x in the NT, 21x by Paul, and twice in Ephesians (3:7; 6:21):
 - 1) Used of the apostles and their fellow ministers (2Cor 6:4; 1Tim 4:6)
 - 2) Used of Phoebe (Rom 16:1)
 - 3) Used of Christ (Rom 15:8)
 - 4) Christ used the verb form (Luke 22:27; Mark 10:45)

Luke 22:27 "For who is greater, the one who reclines *at the table* or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines *at the table*? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

- A. *The man of the mission (ἔγὼ Παῦλος)* (3:1)
- B. *The nature of the mission (3:2-13)*
 1. Stewardship (3:2-6)
 2. Service (*διάκονος*) (3:7-12)
 - a) *It involves the service of the gospel (οὗ "of which")* (3:6b-7a)
 - b) *It involves a great favor (κατὰ τὴν δωρεάν τῆς χάριτος)* (3:7b)
 - It was a privilege:
 - It was gracious:

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

- A. *The man of the mission (ἔγὼ Παῦλος)* (3:1)
- B. *The nature of the mission (3:2-13)*
 1. Stewardship (3:2-6)
 2. Service (*διάκονος*) (3:7-12)
 - a) *It involves the service of the gospel (οὗ "of which")* (3:6b-7a)
 - b) *It involves a great favor (κατὰ τὴν δωρεάν τῆς χάριτος)* (3:7b)
 - c) *It involves divine power* (3:7c)
 - (1) "Working" (*ἐνέργειαν*) "Energizing strength" "Active energy"
 - (2) "Power" "Dynamic power" of God

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

- A. *The man of the mission (ἔγὼ Παῦλος)* (3:1)
- B. *The nature of the mission (3:2-13)*
 1. Stewardship (3:2-6)
 2. Service (3:7-12)
 3. Suffering (*ἐν ταῖς θλίψεσιν*) (3:13)
 - The way of service is not always the easy way:

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

- A. *The man of the mission (ἔγὼ Παῦλος)* (3:1)
- B. *The nature of the mission (3:2-13)*
 1. Stewardship (3:2-6)
 2. Service (3:7-12)
 3. Suffering (3:13)
 4. Selflessness (*ἐλαχιστοτέρω*) (3:8a)
 - A sense of unworthiness: "Least" was not enough so he declares that he is the "least" (*ἐλαχιστοτέρω*)

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

- A. *The man of the mission (ἔγὼ Παῦλος)* (3:1)
- B. *The nature of the mission (3:2-7, 13)*
- C. *The purpose of the mission (3:8-13)*
 1. The Missional Purpose – To Preach (*εὐαγγελίσασθαι*) (v. 8)
 2. The Didactic Purpose – To Bring to Light (*φωτίσαι*) (v. 9)

I. The Mission of the Mystery (3:1-13)

A. The man of the mission (*ἕως Παύλος*) (3:1)

B. The nature of the mission (3:2-7, 13)

C. The purpose of the mission (3:8-13)

1. The Missional Purpose (v. 8)

2. The Didactic Purpose (v. 9)

3. The Cosmic Purpose (vv. 10-13)

a) The knowledge to be made known (v. 10a)

b) The recipients of that knowledge made

known (v. 10c)

c) The instrument for making the knowledge

known (v. 10b)

The Church is the materialization of the purpose of
God for the universe: