

EPHESIANS 3:1-4

LESSON 15

The Dispensation of Grace

1. Ephesians 3:1-2 – Have Ye Heard of the Dispensation

- a. *“this cause”* – ch.1 = the purpose; ch2 = the nature; ch3 = the mission of the church
- b. Paul is the pattern 1Ti 1:16, prisoner Eph 3:1, & preacher of Gentiles 1Ti 2:7, 2Ti 1:11
- c. Paul was imprisoned for the mystery among Gentiles – 2Ti 2:8-9, Col 4:3, Eph 6:20
- d. You don’t make any friends teaching this? Heed Paul’s advice ... 2 Tim 1:8
- e. *“if ye have heard”* – who has? Not many know “dispensation” is in the Bible.
- f. Dispensation: a revelation ordaining God’s ways of dealing with us, and us with him
 - i. It is not only an economy, stewardship, administration, leave the word alone
- g. See the dispensation given here: Acts 26:16, 9:15, Rom 1:5, 11:13, 15:15, 1Cor 4:1, 9:17, Gal 1:15, 1Th 2:16

2. Ephesians 3:3-5 – The Revelation of the Mystery of Christ

- a. *“by revelation”* – Gal 1:11-12 - Which is not how you learned it – Eph 3:9, 2Ti 2:15
 - i. Revelation means it is no longer a mystery (kept secret)
- b. *“as I wrote afore”* – In chapters 1 and 2, but also in his previous epistles
- c. *“when ye read”* – No one reads this chapter – Bible reading is necessary.
 - i. *“Have ye not read?”* – Ps 119:97-104, Mat 21:42, Col 4:16, 1Th 5:27, 1Ti 4:13
 - ii. The scriptures speak of Christ John 5:39; read Paul for the mystery of Christ
- d. *“understand my knowledge”* – Which would not matter, unless it was given to Paul
- e. *“other ages... not known”* – ages = time... see Col 1:25-26 – generations = people.
- f. *“as it is now revealed”* – Was it hidden in prophecy? ← a denial of Rom 16:25
 - i. It was not hidden in the OT, it was hid in God – Eph 3:9
 - ii. ... from *before* the world – 1 Cor 2:7, Titus 1:2, 2 Tim 1:9, Rom 16:25
 - iii. Not hid before the world began → Luke 1:68-70, Acts 2:29-30, 3:21, 1Pe 1:10
- g. *“holy apostles and prophets”* – There are apostles/ prophets in the BoC - 1Co 12:28