

Vs.1- “For this cause”-he refers to the last chapter when he was explaining the truth on the unity of believers

*regardless of their background or nationality, God has unified them into one body (2:14-16)

and one building (2:20-22)

-“prisoner”-(desmios) one in bonds, a captive, or one who is completely under the command of another

*Notice- Paul never mentions being a prisoner of the government (even though he is)

(he only mentions the Lord Jesus as he is under His command)

-“for you Gentiles”- Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles and God used him to bring the message of salvation to them

Vs.2-“dispensation”- (aikonomia) a management, overseer, or a stewardship

*this is a high privilege and sacred trust of the administration of God’s universal grace to all people

(Paul makes it clear that it was given to him and not of his own choosing)

-“to you-ward”- Paul is expressing how he is merely a channel of blessing to the Gentiles

Truth- the grace of God is to be shared with others and not just to be considered a luxury (Col.1:25, 1 Pet:4:10)

Vs.3- “revelation”- (apokalupsis) an uncovering or unveiling, a manifestation of something previously hidden

*this was not unintelligent, but God’s secret until He decided to reveal

(it was unknown apart from divine revelation)

Truth- it didn’t come to Paul by research, rationalization, but by God’s revealing (Gal.1:11-12)

*it wasn’t hidden from the Jews because God was keeping them in the dark- it was hidden because His own chosen people did not seek Him (Isaiah 1)

Truth- God does reveal to those who seek Him (Matt.7:7, Heb.11:6, James 1:5)

-“wrote afor”- the previous mystery is salvation by grace through faith that Paul just wrote about

Vs.4- “when ye read”- the epistles were to be read publicly and even circulated to other churches

-“understood”- (noeo) to think, ponder, or consider, to fully perceive with the mind

-“mystery of Christ”- this is God’s plan of eternal redemption and also the unifying of Jew and Gentile

*Paul knows that they must fully understand this “mystery” before any practical application

Truth- what is not properly understood can never be properly applied

Vs.5-“other ages”- previous times or generations

*God went completely silent for 400 years before He used John the Baptist to break the silence

and announce the coming of the Messiah

-God did promise universal blessing through Abraham (Gen.12:3) and the full meaning of that promise became clear when Paul wrote Gal.3:28

(Is.49:6 predicted salvation to all races but it would be Paul who would fulfill that prophecy- Acts 13:46-47)

-even at Pentecost in Acts 2, there were 16 nationalities mentioned and they all heard in their “tongue”

-“prophets”- many are unaware that there were prophets in the New Testament

(Peter, Paul, and John were all given prophetic revelation of the end time)

-“by the Spirit”- the Holy Spirit is the One who brought this truth to the apostles and prophets

Vs.6- “fellow-heirs”- this means a joint participant (this means that Jew and Gentile are saved the same way)

Truth- Jews considered the Gentiles unclean were known to refer to them as dogs

(Paul’s statement here makes it clear that Gentiles aren’t second-class citizens in Heaven and are equal with any and all of God’s redeemed, regardless of nationality)

-“in Christ”- going back to Abraham and the promise given to Him, God was prophesying of Jesus coming from the seed of Abraham (Isaac was merely a foreshadow of the Lord Jesus)

*it is “in Christ” that all nations can be blessed

Vs.7-“minister”- (diakonos) the servant of a king or one who executes the commands of a master

(Notice the “I was made”- this wasn’t a self-proclamation)

-“gift of the grace”- this gift is what transformed Saul the blasphemer to Paul the believer and apostle

-“effectual working”- (energeia) superhuman power (this term means that it surpasses human ability)

-“power”-(dunamis) where we get the word “dynamic”

(this word means a power residing in something by virtue of its nature)

Truth- God is omnipotent and the power to save, transform, and unify are His alone