

**Stark Road Gospel Hall
Bi-Monthly Bible Reading
March 16, 2019**

EPHESIANS 3

- I. Chapters 1-3: Doctrine: Our Riches in Christ. The Believer's Position in Christ. The Unity of the Church Positionally. Key Verse is 1:3. Key Word *Blessings*.**
- II. Chapters 4-6: Duty: Our Responsibilities in Christ. The Believer's Practice in the Lord. The Unity of the Church Practically. Key Verse is 4:1. Key Word *Walk*.¹**
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Outline

1) The Mystery of Christ, the Church 1-13

- a) Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ, 1
- b) **The mystery of Christ**,—a grammatical parenthesis about a dispensational parenthesis 2-13
 - i) **Stewardship of the mystery** given to Paul, 2
 - ii) **Definition of the mystery** —hidden in OT era, now revealed, 5
 - iii) **Content of the mystery** —Jew and Gentile are one and on equal footing, 6
 - iv) **Communication of the mystery** —Paul's unique role, an unlikely instrument, 7-9
 - v) **Purpose of the mystery** —the church, a cosmic lesson for angelic beings, 10
 - vi) **Origin of the mystery** —part of God's eternal purpose, not plan B, 11
 - vii) **Practical outcome of the mystery** —access with confidence, courage, 12-13

2) Prayer for Comprehension

That the immeasurable riches of God's grace (ch 1-3) might become a vibrant reality in the minds and hearts of the believers, 14-19

- a) Addressed to the Father from who all fatherhood is derived, 14-15
- b) His provision will be in proportion to his glory —according to the riches of his glory, 16a
- c) Paul's Request
 - i) To be **strengthened**, 16-17
 - (1) In the inner man so that Christ will be at home in their hearts
 - (2) Rooted and grounded in love
 - ii) In order to be able to **comprehend**, 18, 19a
 - (1) Grasp all the dimensions of the riches of God's grace
 - (2) To know Christ love for them,
 - iii) And thus be **filled** with the fullness of God —the pinnacle or Christian experience, 19b

¹ From January's Bible reading outline

3) Praise for God's Power

- a) To him who is abundantly able to answer the above prayer, 20
- b) To him be glory, 21
 - i) **In the church** –as it displays the manifold wisdom of God, (ref v10)
 - ii) **In Christ Jesus** –through whom all of God's purposes are realized, (ref v11)
 - iii) **Through all generations** –present age and the Messianic kingdom
 - iv) **Forever and ever** –and into eternity