

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | **Ephesians** | Philippians | Colossians

Lesson #9 – Ephesians 3

Main Idea

Ephesians 3 is an important chapter in the New Testament where Paul reveals the mystery of God's plan to include salvation for the Gentiles. Paul explains that through Christ, all Believers, both Jews and Gentiles, are united into one body. He emphasizes the grace given to him to preach the Gospel and make known the "unsearchable riches of Christ." Paul prays for the Ephesians, asking that they be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit and that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. He concludes by offering praise to God, who is able to do immeasurably more than all they ask or imagine, according to His power at work within them. The chapter highlights God's eternal purpose, the unity of the church, and the greatness of God's love.

Outline for Ephesians

- Ephesians 1:1-2 – Introduction
- Ephesians 1:3-23 – Our spiritual possessions in Christ
- Ephesians 2:1-22 – Our spiritual position in Christ
- Ephesians 4:1-16 – A call to walk in unity
- Ephesians 4:17 - 5:21 – A call to walk in purity
- Ephesians 5:22 -6:9 – A call to walk in harmony
- Ephesians 6:10-20 – A call to walk in victory

Questions for Consideration

1. In reading through verses 1 through 12, Paul obviously talks about God's plan for the Gentiles. What was God's original plan for Israel (hint: read Exodus 19:5-6 and Romans 11:1-12). What happened in (and with) Israel that changed God's original plan?
2. What is the Mystery to which Paul addresses in verse 3? In the same manner, read verse 9. What are your thoughts on how God has revealed Himself to man over the years? Think in terms of how God communicated with men like Noah, David, and us today. For those who did the "Ryrie Study" this in terms of Dispensations.
3. According to verses 10 and 11 of Ephesians 3, what is one of God's overall purposes for the revealed Mystery? Think of God's brilliance in creating a plan where one "chosen" group (Israel) would reject Him and that would permit the call of another "chosen" group (followers of Jesus).
4. In verses 13 through 21 Paul really hits home on the purpose and power of prayer, especially verse 20.
 - a. What is God's primary purpose in prayer? Is it to change us or Him?
 - b. Considering the following phrase and share your thoughts relative to your life.

God's desire is that we be involved in pursuits that are destined to fail without His involvement.

Homework: Read Ephesians Chapter 4. Meditate on verse 1 all week and ask God to reveal His thoughts to you.



Ephesians 3 (New International Version)

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Footnotes

- a. [Ephesians 3:15](#) The Greek for *family* (*patria*) is derived from the Greek for *father* (*pater*).

