

# **EPHESIANS 3:1-13**

*Fellow heirs through the Gospel.*

# PRISONER.

- ◆ “...*Paul the prisoner of Christ Jesus...*”
- ◆ Although Paul was under house arrest in Rome and chained to a Roman soldier he saw himself as a prisoner of Christ.
- ◆ We are employees, spouses, parents, children, parishioners and pastors *of Christ Jesus.*
- ◆ “...*for the sake of you Gentiles...*”
- ◆ Acts 21:15-22:30 describes Paul’s arrest, where we learn he was imprisoned for claiming God sent him to share the gospel with the Gentiles.

# THE MYSTERY.

- ◆ Paul writes about “*the mystery*” nearly 20 times.
- ◆ The mystery was not “revealed” until the time of the apostles.
  - ◆ OT (Isaiah 49:6); Jesus (Acts 1:8); Paul by a prophet (Acts 9:1-15); Peter (Acts 11:1-18).
- ◆ What is the mystery?

*“...that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel...”*  
Ephesians 3:6

# PREACH.

- ◆ Preach - to announce “good news”.
- ◆ The unfathomable riches (that cannot be measured) of Christ.
- ◆ The administration of the mystery (how it was accomplished) which was hidden in God.
- ◆ Make known the manifold wisdom of God (complexity) through the church to heaven (His plan was a mystery even to angels).
- ◆ God’s eternal purpose carried out in Christ.
- ◆ Now we have boldness and confident access through faith.

# TRIBULATIONS.

*“Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.”*

Ephesians 3:13

- ◆ Acts 20:17-38- Paul had already revealed to the Ephesians that he would suffer for the gospel.
- ◆ **Application:**
  - ◆ Do you approach God with confidence and boldness, or fear and humiliation?
  - ◆ Do you believe that suffering for the cause of Christ is worthwhile? Are you willing to suffer?