

A Closer Look at the Mystery

1. Review: What did we already learn in Ephesians about the “mystery” of His will? (1:9-10)
2. What do you think Paul meant by calling himself a prisoner of Christ in verse 1? How did Paul see his relationship with “you Gentiles” (1-2)?
3. “The stewardship of God’s grace” (2) referred to Paul’s mission of sharing the gospel with the Gentiles. In what ways might each of us share in this “stewardship”?
4. In verse 3 Paul states that the mystery was made known to him by “revelation”. Where and from whom did he receive this revelation? What did this revelation reveal? (Acts 26:12-20)
5. How is a New Testament “mystery” described for us in verses 4-5?
6. Why do you think God withheld this “mystery” from the Old Testament believers? (5) How do you think they would have responded if they had heard about Gentiles having the same privileges as “God’s chosen people”?
7. What do each of the following privileges for believers mean? (6)
 - Fellow heirs
 - Fellow members of the body
 - Fellow partakers of the promise.In the church body, who is it that Gentile believers are “fellow” with?
8. Why do you think it is important for us to know today that we Gentiles are “fellow” heirs, members, and partakers? How do you see these truths working in your own life?
9. What does “the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” refer to? How have you partaken of this promise personally?
10. Paul seems to be thinking beyond just his own salvation when he writes about “the gift of God’s grace which was given to me” in verse 7. From the context in that verse, what do you think this gift was? What kind of gift(s) would you say God has given you?