

Revealing the Mystery (Part 2)

1. 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? How was His power working in the giving of these gifts?
2. Why do you think Paul considered himself “*the very least of all saints*”? (8 – See also 1 Corinthians 15:9.) With what related phrase does Paul describe himself in 1 Timothy 1:15?
3. What are some of the “*unfathomable riches of Christ*”? (8 – See also 1:7-8, 18; 2:7.) Which one do you appreciate most and why?
4. The church, formerly hidden, is a new creation of God. What is the significance of Paul adding the phrase “*...who created all things;*” to the end of verse 9?
5. From your own study of Scripture, what “rulers” and “authorities” exist other than God Himself? (10 – See also Isaiah 6:1-3; 14:12-14; Ezekiel 1:5-10; Revelation 1:4; 4:6-8; Psalms 103:20; Jude 1:6.) What do you think that these beings in the heavenly places might be learning through the church?
6. How is “the manifold (multi-faceted) wisdom of God” seen through the church? (10) How does the fact that God is using the church to provide instruction to the unseen “heavenly” world encourage you in your walk with Christ? (11)
7. How would you describe the “purpose” Paul wrote about in verse 11? How did God carry out this purpose in Christ Jesus?
8. How do most religions teach their adherents to approach their god? How does Paul encourage us to approach the one, true God in verse 12? What does this tell you about our God and His relationship with us?
9. Explain how Paul’s tribulations brought glory to the Ephesians and other Gentiles who were reading this letter. (13)
10. What does verse 13 tell us about Paul’s own attitude toward all that he had endured during his last 15 years of bringing the gospel to the Gentile world? How can we apply this same attitude toward trials and suffering in our lives? (See also Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:15-18; 2 Timothy 2:10)