

# Ephesians 3:1-21



## The text – Ephesians 3: 1-21

1. Read Ephesians 3:1-21. Notice the words “for this reason” in 3:1, again in 3:14, and previously in 1:15. What reason? What is “the reason” to which Paul keeps returning?
2. Discuss the words, “I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles”. It is this set of relationships that causes Paul to write the words of 3:2-13, before praying. What stands out to you as you think about “Paul”, “Jesus Christ”, and “you Gentiles”?
3. In 3:2-6, Paul uses the word “mystery” on three occasions. What is this mystery? The word is used again in 3:9. What is this mystery that is now revealed?
4. In 3:7-13 Paul is conscious of his unworthiness, of God’s grace, and of his suffering. Discuss the words of 3:8 – “I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people”. Why is this the case?
5. Paul has already written about the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” in 1:20-21. He will write about them again in 6:12. Who or what are these rulers and authorities?
6. What is the relationship between the triumph of God in 3:10-12 and the suffering of Paul in 3:13? Discuss the relationship between “freedom”, “confidence” and being “discouraged” in these verses.
7. In what way does every family in heaven and earth derive its name from God the Father?
8. Notice Paul’s use of the word for “power” in his prayer. What does he mean by power? What is power like? What does power do?
9. In Ephesians 3:19, “you” is plural – that is, “that you (all together) may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”. How is the church filled in this way?

## The Scriptures – Ephesians 3: 1-21 as a portion of the Scriptures

10. It had always been God’s plan to bless people throughout the nations of the world as well as in Israel. Read the words of Isaiah 49:5-7 and discuss their relationship to Paul’s words in Ephesians.
11. Paul also writes about God’s revealed “mystery” in Colossians 1:24-29. Discuss this passage, comparing and contrasting it with the Ephesians passage.

## Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 3: 1-21 as a portion of the Scriptures

12. Take time now to pray Paul’s prayer in 3:15-21 for one another. Make it your prayer for yourself and for the members of the church in coming weeks.
13. What has encouraged you from this study in God’s word?
14. What will you do as a result of God’s word to you in Ephesians 3:1-21?