

THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD

Eph. 3:2

Introduction:

- A. Paul given "the dispensation of the grace of God"
 - 1. **Dispensation** = "stewardship" (cf. 1 Cor. 9:17)
 - 2. **Grace** = "unmerited favor".
 - a. A quality. (Col. 4:6).
 - b. A disposition.
 - c. A benefit.
 - (1) A gift. (cf. Eph. 2:7,8)
 - (2) A privilege. (Eph. 3:2,8; 2 Cor. 8:1,2,7).
- B. Paul touches on three areas of the stewardship of the grace of God in Eph. 3:

Discussion:

- I. The Grace To Know The Mystery of Christ (vv. 1-7)
 - A. The giving of this grace.
 - 1. Given by the Holy Spirit. (v. 5; cf. 1 Cor. 2:12,13)
 - 2. Given to apostles and prophets for us. (v. 2-5 cf. Gal. 1:11,12)
 - a. They received by revelation.
 - b. We receive by hearing them. (v. 4 cf. Rom. 10:6-8,17)
 - B. The greatness of this grace.
 - 1. To know "mystery". (vs. 4,5,9)
 - a. Things "eye had not seen, nor ear heard" (1 Cor. 2:7-10)
 - b. Things the O.T. prophets and angels wanted to know. (1 Pet. 1:8-12)
 - 2. To know that all men can be:
 - a. Fellow heirs of God. (v. 6)
 - b. Of the same body. (v. 6; cf. 1:22,23; 2:14-18)
 - c. Partakers of God's promise. (v. 6; Gal. 3:26-29).
- II. The Grace To Preach The Mystery Of Christ. (vv. 8-13)
 - A. To preach "unsearchable riches of Christ"! (v.8).
 - B. To make all men see that:
 - 1. All things were created through Jesus Christ (v. 9)
 - 2. The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church. (v.10-11)
 - a. God created all things in Christ to this "intent:.
 - b. Church was no after thought, but in God's eternal purpose.
 - 3. We have boldness and access through confidence ... in Him.
 - a. Boldness because our sins are remitted. (Acts 2:38)
 - b. Boldness because He is faithful.
 - 4. There is no need to faint (lose heart) during trouble. (v. 13)
- III. The Grace To Obey The Mystery Of Christ. (vv. 14-21)
 - A. To bow knee to God as the Father of Jesus Christ. (vv. 14,15)
 - 1. Paul bowed knee to pray for Ephesians. (vv. 16-19).
 - 2. Paul bowed knee to glorify God. (vv. 20-21)
 - B. To bow knee to Christ in obedience. (Phil. 2:9-13)
 - 1. Obey gospel. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
 - 2. Obey all things commanded. (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).

Conclusion:

- A. What marvelous grace is bestowed upon us in this age!
 - 1. God has given us the apostolic revelation.
 - 2. God has given us the privilege to know and preach gospel.
 - 3. God has given us the privilege to worship and serve Him through Christ.
- B. What are we to do about this marvelous grace? (4:1)
 - "I, therefore, ... beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling ..."