

EPHESIANS 3 NOTES

Paul's specific commission to the Gentiles

Spend some time reading Acts 9 about Paul's conversion.

Acts 9:15 – But the Lord said to him (Ananias), “Go, for this man is my chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites.”

The Jews did not understand their role in God's redemption story. They didn't grasp that, while the Messiah would come from them and they were God's chosen people, they were not chosen to exclusively receive His promise of redemption; they were chosen to be the vessel through which the gospel was shared with all nations.

For Paul, who was truly a Jew among Jews (Philippians 3:4-7), to be called to share the gospel with the Gentiles was a dramatic and unexpected revelation.

The “mystery” (v. 3, 4, 9)

This idea that something had not been known before but was now understood. What was this mystery?

Verse 6 – that all nations would be brought the message of salvation, the gospel is for ALL peoples! And that the Gentiles would be on equal footing (coheirs).

How would this happen?

Verse 10 – The Church.

The Church is central to God's work. It is His divine agent purposed to function in divine fellowship to accomplish His divine mandate.

What is our mandate? Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

Paul's Second Prayer (v. 14-19)

Previously, Paul prayed for the church to have spiritual insight (1:15-19). In chapter two, he presented the call to unity (2:11-22). Now we see his second prayer, binding together both insight and unity – a prayer for spiritual power!

As in chapter 1, Paul reinforces the Trinitarian view through his prayer.

Strengthened through the Spirit

Rooted and established through God

Filled through Christ

Specifically he prayed for the church to be strengthened with power, to dwell with faith, and to be established in love. Why? So that we would KNOW the fullness of God's love and be filled with all He has for us.