**Ephesians**

*Ephesus, a revival church that affected a region*

**Grace for Apostolic Wisdom**

**Session 14 – Chapter 3 Part 1**

Ephesians 3

1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

ESV

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**The Divine Detour**

“For this reason…”

Paul begins his prayer but quickly gets distracted by a truth he must unpack before completing his original thought. He will eventually return to this prayer in chapter 3:14.

* In short, rabbit trails are scriptural!

**The Purpose for His Prison**

“A prisoner for Christ on behalf of you Gentiles”

Paul viewed his imprisonment as not only a direct result of his calling, it was a *part* of his calling.

“On behalf of...” Paul viewed himself as “doing time” for the Gentiles he was called to reach. His imprisonment was an intercessory act.

**Reputation for Revelation**

“Assuming” – the NIV says “surely you have heard…”

The grace on Paul was evident to all. Paul assumed the Ephesians knew of the revelatory knowledge he had.

* Verse 4 – essentially Paul is saying if you are not aware of it, you will be as you read it.

**The Rules of the House**

“The stewardship (KJV – administration) of God’s grace given unto me…”

* God’s grace was given to Paul to fulfill his calling. Grace is the substance of our callings.
* Administration or stewardship comes from the Greek word *oikonomia*, a compound word from the terms *oikos* or house and *nomos* meaning law. The term communicated the idea of a house administrator similar to what Joseph was in Potiphar’s house.

**Anointing: Grace for the Sake of Others**

The grace on Paul was “for them”. This is an interesting and often overlooked truth.

* Paul attributed the power on his ministry to the purposes of God and the audience, not himself (I Thessalonians 1:4-5).

**The Primacy of Revelation in Paul’s Ministry**

“How the mystery was made known to me by revelation…”

* The purpose of the grace upon Paul was revelation.
* This is one component of apostolic grace.
* Paul stated clearly that his revelatory gift would be plain. Paul owned it.
	+ This principle of owning the grace upon him was key to the authority Paul walked in.

**Revelation has a Release Date**

“That was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been made known…”

* Habakkuk 2:3 – “the vision or revelation is for an appointed time.”
* Revelation is one of the primary governors in the Kingdom of God.
* Present revelation, the “now of God”, is one of the primary purposes of apostolic and prophetic grace.
* I would propose there still remain mysteries that have not be revealed; they await an appointed time.