

- I. The prisoner of the mystery (v. 1-4)
  - A. Paul is a totally committed follower of Christ
  - B. Paul is a channel of God’s grace
- II. The plan of the mystery (v. 5-6)
  - A. All Christians are heirs with Israel

“The scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you’. So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Galatians 3:8-9)

“if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29)

- B. All Christians belong to one body

“So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5)

- C. All Christians share in the promise of blessings in Christ

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

- III. The preaching of the mystery (v. 7-9)
  - A. Paul is a servant of the gospel
  - B. Paul is dependent upon God’s grace
  - C. Paul is thrilled to share the gospel

“Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.” (I Corinthians 9:16)

- D. Paul is proclaiming the endless riches of Christ

- IV. The purpose of the mystery (v. 10-11)
  - A. That God’s wisdom will be revealed in heaven

“Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly host.” (Psalm 148:2)

- B. That God’s plan will be seen as fulfilled in Christ
- C. That Christ will be recognized as Lord

“For us there is but one God, the Father, through whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.” (I Corinthians 8:6)

- V. The privilege of the mystery (v. 12-13)
  - A. We can approach God through faith in Christ
  - B. We can approach God with freedom
  - C. We can approach God with confidence

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)