

Each of us should pray these prayers over ourselves as well as our families and over those of whom we minister. Our greatest desire should be to be full of the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19). For *God is able to do in us and for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think* (Ephesians 3:20).

There is so much of God and His fullness, that we have not yet tapped into. It is His pleasure to reveal Himself to us in many ways.

There is no limit to the things we can get from God that are written in the promises in His Word (II Peter 1:4).

It has been said, there are 32,000 promises of God throughout the Bible.

We only need to ask, believe, and put no limits on Him (see Psalm 78:41).

THIRD STUDY

THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY

PAUL'S MISSION TO THE GENTILES (Ephesians 3:1-13)

1. What does Paul call himself in Ephesians 3:1, 7, 8? _____

The prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles.

(Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; II Timothy 1:8; Philemon 1:9)

Paul points out to the Gentile Churches, the reason he is now in prison. The grounds being: the opposition of the Jews toward his mission to the Gentiles. He also mentions How the Gentiles have profited because he is not free (Ephesians 3:2).

2. What does Paul call the mode or method of his divine appointment to go to the Gentiles in Ephesians 3:3? _____
3. By revelation, Christ made known unto Paul the mystery of Christ which was hidden (or not made known) before time unto the sons of men. What was that mystery? (Ephesians 3:3-6)_____

The principalities and powers (*archai* and *exousiai*) cannot here mean any type of earthly rulers because Paul says they are **in heavenly places**. Neither are they to be considered demonic powers, for, as Salmond suggests, the power of God would be more appropriate in dealing with them than the wisdom of God. Salmond concludes: “The *archai* and *exousiai* can only mean *good* angels ... and these names of dignity ... are appropriate here as suggesting the *greatness* of Paul’s commission, and perhaps also ... the glory put upon the *ecclesia* [church].” ¹

Doubtless these angels of God who rule the spheres have an interest in the scheme of Man’s redemption (I Pet. 1:12). The apostles and prophets have received the truth regarding God’s plans and have communicated it to the Church. The Church in turn mediated the truth to the whole universe. Beare comments, “The powerful rulers of the spheres see the church forming, observe how it gathers into one the hostile segments of humanity, and so learn for the first time **the manifold wisdom of God.**” When the Church fulfills her mission of making known the divine wisdom, Paul’s ministry is validated. **Manifold** (*polypoikilos*) appears only here in the New Testament. It means “variegated, of different colors.” Robinson comments that “the

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, p.190,191.

metaphor is taken from the intricate beauty of an embroidered pattern.” Who can fathom the majesty and diversity of God’s wisdom in redeeming the world? In Rom. 11:33, Paul exclaims, “Frankly, I stand amazed at the unfathomable complexity of God’s wisdom and God’s knowledge. How could man ever understand his reasons for action, or explain his methods of working?” The end results is the redemption of souls. ¹

4. In what verse in Chapter 3 does Paul name the mystery of the Gentiles coming into the kingdom, the eternal purpose or plan of God? _____

In Ephesians 3:12,13, Paul expresses his concern that the church not be disheartened over his trials on their behalf.

PRAYER FOR INNERGROWTH (Ephesians 3:14-21)

1. Name the 6 things Paul prayed for the Ephesians in Ephesians 3:17-20.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, p.191.