

I. **THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY (1-13)**

A. **A MYSTERY ONCE HIDDEN, NOW REVEALED (1-7)**

1. Interrupting himself, Paul makes mention of God's grace (1-2)
 - a. A measure of grace given to him
 - b. Given for the benefit of his readers
2. That by revelation God made known to Paul the "mystery" (3-4)
 - a. Concerning which he wrote previously
 - b. Which as they read, they will understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ
3. A "mystery" once hidden, but now revealed (5)
 - a. In other ages it was not made known to men
 - b. But has now been revealed
 1. By the Spirit
 2. To God's holy apostles and prophets
4. The "mystery" involved the Gentiles (6)
 - a. That they should be fellow heirs, of the same body
 - b. That they should be partakers of God's promise through the gospel
5. Paul's role as a minister of this "mystery" was a gift from God (7)
 - a. A gift of God's grace
 - b. A gift given to him by the effective working of God's power

B. **PAUL'S TASK AS A MINISTER OF THIS "MYSTERY" (8-13)**

1. To preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ (8)
 - a. Even though he was "less than the least of all the saints"
 - b. Yet this grace was given to him
2. To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery (9-13)
 - a. Which from the beginning was hidden in God who created all things
 - b. But with the intention of now making God's wisdom known
 1. Made known by the church
 2. Made known to principalities and powers in heavenly places

- c. According to God's eternal purpose which He fulfilled in Christ Jesus
 1. In whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him
 2. For which Paul does not want them to lose heart over his tribulations in their behalf, which was for their glory

II. **PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER: FOR THEIR ENABLEMENT (14-21)**

A. **HIS INVOCATION (14-15)**

1. In view of God's grace to the Gentiles, Paul bows his knees in prayer (**14a**)
2. He addresses the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named (**14b-15**)

B. **HIS PETITION (16-19)**

1. That they would be strengthened by the Spirit of God (**16-17**)
 - a. According to the riches of His glory
 - b. With might through His Spirit in the inner man
 - c. So Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith
2. That they might comprehend the love of Christ (**18-19a**)
 - a. Being rooted and grounded in love
 - b. To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge
3. That they might be filled with all the fullness of God (**19b**)

C. **HIS DOXOLOGY (20-21)**

1. Glory to God, for what He is able to do! (**20**)
 - a. Able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think
 - b. According to the power that works in us
2. Glory to God, in the church! (**21**)
 - a. By Christ Jesus
 - b. Throughout all ages, world without end

III.