

God's Glorious Grace

Ephesians 3:1-13

The Great Secret

God Does The Unexpected

(vs. 1-6)

That is so Paul...

- A unique man with quirks and idiosyncrasies...
 - E.g. he frequently made up words, crafted long complex-compound sentences, and changed his thoughts in mid-stream... That's how God made him!
 - God designed, used and blessed Paul's uniqueness.
- This is so like God...
 - The bible is filled with unique individuals whom God used. This is God's desire and design.
 - Rich diversity of personality, character, gifting and insight is to be encouraged and embraced among us.
 - Do not miss God's unexpected ways!
Oneness and richness flow from diversity and harmony, not uniformity.

That is so Paul...

A Prisoner of Christ Jesus? (vs. 1)

- Paul's personal circumstances: a prisoner
 - Has been incarcerated for 5 years already...
 - See [II Cor 11:23-27](#)
 - This particular imprisonment would not be the last...
- Paul's firm conviction: a prisoner of Christ!
 - See 3:1; 4:1; II Tim 1:8; Philemon 1,9
 - Paul simply did not view his circumstances from a simple human perspective – but from that of a God who is still on the throne!
 - How about us?

That is so Paul...

A Prisoner of Christ Jesus? (vs. 1)

God Does the Unexpected! (vs. 2-6)

– God's *mystery*

- See vs. 3, 4, 6, & 9

A 'mystery' is not a puzzle that we can solve, but something beyond human understanding unless and until God makes it known by revelation.

That is so Paul...

A Prisoner of Christ Jesus? (vs. 1)

God Does the Unexpected! (vs. 2-6)

- God's *mystery*
- The unexpected plan of God: *the church!*
 - Briefly explained – see 1:9,10; 2:11-13; 2:19-22
 - OT hints – see Gen 12:3; Is 49:6
 - Unexpected: the people of God today = the Church (not Israel). See Gal 3:26-29; Eph 2:15-18; 4:3-6.
 - Far reaching implications for 1st century Christians and for us...

That is so Paul...

A Prisoner of Christ Jesus? (vs. 1)

God Does the Unexpected! (vs. 2-6)

- God's *mystery*
- The unexpected plan of God: *the church!*
- God and His ways are rarely what we expect!