

CHAPTER 3

What's Your Cause? (vs. 1)

- ❖ Note that Paul who is technically in Roman custody calls himself a prisoner of Jesus Christ
 - *“In the day he was free to move around the house with the supervision of soldiers, but every night he was chained to a soldier to make sure he did not escape before his trial before Caesar.”* – David Guzik
 - Eph. 3:1, 4:1; Phil. 1:7, 13-16
 - No matter where we find ourselves, it should all be for Christ
 - When we know the cause, it brings purpose and clarity - 1 Sam. 17:28-30; Phil. 1:20-21

The Dispensation of Grace

- ❖ Dispensation: administration, stewardship
- ❖ Paul was given the stewardship of ministering to the Gentiles – Act 9:15
- ❖ Vs. 3: God revealed unto Paul his assignment as he revealed what had been a mystery
 - Mystery: mustērion: hidden purpose, counsel or will hidden from the ungodly and wicked but plain to the godly (Thayer's Dictionary)
 - Read 1 Cor. 2:14; Acts 22:17-21; Rom. 11:25; 16:25; Eph 3:4,9
 - Now the Gentiles would be included what is now known as the Christian Church, the Body of Christ – Eph. 2:11-22
- ❖ Vs. 5: Revelation to the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit – Col. 1:26
 - This refers to NT apostles and prophets
- ❖ The Revelation: the inclusion of the Gentiles – Gal. 3:28-29
 - Fellow heirs – Rom. 8:16-17;
 - Same body – Rom. 8:17; Eph. 4:4, 16, 25
 - Partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel – Eph. 2:12-13

Called According to the Gift of Grace

- ❖ Vs. 7: Paul says was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God – 1 Cor. 15:9-11
Rom. 15:14-16
 - God did a work in Paul in order to do a work through Paul – Rom. 15:18 (MSG)

➔ ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC MISTAKES YOU AND I CAN MAKE IS TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE WHO WE ARE OUTSIDE OF THE GRACE OF GOD

