#### **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 his revealed what had been a mystery
  - Mystery: musterion: 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

## **Chapter 3 (continued)**

- ❖ Vs. 8: Paul shows forth his understanding of the Grace of God on his life
  - ➤ Less than the least of all saints 1 Cor. 15:9
  - ➤ Paul's focus is summed up in this Col. 1:27-29
- ❖ Vs. 9: People can see Christ working in and through Paul
- Vs. 10: The angels learn of the manifold (many-sided) wisdom of God through 1 Pet. 1:12
  - ➤ Angels learn from us 1 Cor. 11:10; 1 Pet. 1:12; 1 Tim. 5:21
- Vs. 12: What we have as believers
  - ➤ Boldness Heb. 4:16
  - > Access with confidence Heb. 10:19-25
  - > Both by the faith of Him (faith in Him) John 14:6
- ❖ Vs. 13: Don't faint at my tribulations Phil. 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:6

Prayer for inner growth				