

¹ **For this reason** I, Paul, **a prisoner** ...¹

for Christ Jesus
on behalf of you Gentiles²—

² assuming that you have heard of the **stewardship**³ of God's grace
that was given to me for you,

³ how **the mystery**⁴ was made known to me by revelation,
as I have written briefly⁵.

⁴ When you read this,
you can perceive my insight into **the mystery of Christ**,

⁵ (the mystery) which *was not* made known to the sons of men in other generations
as it has now been revealed

to his holy apostles
and prophets

by the Spirit.

⁶ **This mystery** is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs,
members of the same body,
and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister⁶ according to the gift of God's grace,
which was given me
by the working of his power.

⁸ To me,
though I am the very least of all the saints,
this grace was given,

to preach⁷ to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

⁹ and **to bring to light** for everyone

what is the plan of the **mystery**
hidden for ages in God who created all things,

¹⁰ so that

through the church

the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known
to the rulers and authorities

¹ Paul here starts a sentence that he won't truly finish until verse 14!! It concludes, "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father." In other words, Paul resumes the letter in prayer, which is how he began it!

² Paul very specifically connects his current imprisonment to his unique ministry to Gentiles, his mission to proclaim that there is true unity between Jew and Gentile in Jesus alone.

³ In ESV the Greek word (oikonomia) is translated "stewardship". Elsewhere in Ephesians, the ESV translates the word "plan" (1:10 and 3:9)

⁴ Mystery -open-secret

⁵ Referring to what he has already written in this letter, namely that the Gentiles are included in the grace of God in Jesus.

⁶ Diakonos – servant, minister

⁷ Literally "to Gospel, to proclaim the Good News"

in the heavenly places.

¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized⁸ in Christ Jesus our Lord,

¹² in whom we have boldness and access⁹ with confidence
through our faith in him.

¹³ So¹⁰ I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you,
which is your glory.

⁸ Literally, "done." Perhaps better would be "accomplished."

⁹ The language of boldness and access again recalls Temple and worship imagery. Because of our sin and God's holiness, access to God is always mediated: in the OT, through the priesthood and sacrifices, but in the NT through Jesus alone.

¹⁰ Answers the premise "assuming that you have heard of the stewardship..." in verse 2 with the idea, "since verse 2 is the case, this is what I expect..."