

# Ephesians 3

## Background

As we studied Ephesians 2, we see it filled with many familiar themes to those that are in Christ. It is God that made us alive when we were very much dead in our trespasses and sins. It is God that was rich in mercy and he saved us from what we deserve. Our very salvation is a gift from God, and there is nothing we can do to earn it. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast."

The chapter then goes on to talk about how Gentiles were grafted into the fold and that while we were once strangers and foreigners, we are all part of the same body with Christ as the Chief Cornerstone. What lies ahead in Ephesians 3? Let's study together and examine the truths claimed within this passage.

## Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.
2. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

### **Ephesians 3:20-21:**

*"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

## Day 2 - Observations

3. In verse 1, **how** does Paul describe himself?

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4. Verses 1-5 speaks about the mystery of Christ. **How** is the mystery revealed and to **whom**?

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5. Verses 6-7 reveals this mystery. **What** is the mystery and **what** is Paul's role in it?

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6. In verses 8-13, **how** does Paul view himself when considering this grace given to him? **What** is Paul's purpose (his mission) with the mystery that was revealed in the previous verses?

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7. Verse 14 uses the phrase, "For this reason" which serves as a conjunction between verses 1-13 and the rest of the chapter. **What** is Paul's attitude and exhortation in verses 14-21 based on the revelation of the mystery in the previous verses?

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8. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the 'who, what, when, where, why, and how' of the passage.

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### Day 3 - Additional Observations

9. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

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10. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links "purposeful parallels." If so, write those down below.

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11. **Word Studies:** Use the "Blue Letter Bible" or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Ephesians 3:2 (NKJV), "...if indeed you have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you...**" - This week's word from the passage above: "**dispensation**"

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

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12. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.

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#### Day 4 - Interpret

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God's intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

13. In verse 8, Paul talks about how he is "less than the least of all the saints" in response to his responsibility to preach the gospel among the Gentiles. What important trait and/or lesson is Paul modeling for the readers of this letter as something paramount for taking on the responsibility of preaching the gospel?

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14. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

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#### Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

15. Whether we have a teaching/preaching ministry or responsibility, we have an obligation to share the gospel within our sphere of influence (at the very least). Based on what you

learned from Paul and the interpretation you made on day 4, write an application statement that challenges you in this regard.

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16. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

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### **Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse**

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

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### **Notes from Teaching**

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