

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



5. Paul's Call to the Gentiles

Introduction

Paul was in prison when he wrote the letter we know as the Book of Ephesians. It was probably about AD60-61. Although this letter was addressed to the believers in Ephesus, it would have been passed around to the churches in other cities as well. As we come to chapter 3 Paul mentions he is in prison because of his ministry to the Gentile Christians.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:1-11

- † What had God called Paul to do and how does he describe this call? v2, 7, 8, 9

(V2 An administration of God's grace.

V7 A gift of God's grace.

V8 Grace given to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

V9 To make plain the mystery.)

- † What do these verses show us about Paul's attitude to God's call? V7-8

(Paul had an attitude of humility. He wasn't proud that God had called him, but emphasized it was because of God's grace.)

- † What is the 'mystery of Christ' that God revealed to Paul? v4 – 6

(The mystery is how the Gentiles were able to become partakers of the gospel.)

- † What does it mean when it says in v10 'the wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms'?

(The mission of the church is far wider than those who live on the earth. God is using the church, so that all living beings will see the wisdom in what he has done through Christ. This includes the angels, as well as those who have fallen along with Satan.)

- † Just as God had called Paul to preach to the Gentiles, He has a calling on each one of our lives. What can we learn from Paul's testimony that will help us fulfill our calling? See v2, 4, 7-8

(Just as Paul recognized that he was called by God's grace, we are too. Paul was called to preach to the Gentiles. Each of us has been given gifts and called to do something different. Like Paul, we should never be proud of what God has called us to do, or does through us. It is by the grace of God.)

- † What do you think God has called you to do? Share your thoughts.

(Some of you may not be sure yet as this is something that becomes clearer when you grow in your walk with God. Often others can 'see' your gifts and abilities, and this may help you discover what God has called you to do.)

Conclusion

God has called each of us to be His children, part of His family, but He has also called us to fulfill a specific purpose here on earth. Paul was called to preach to the Gentiles. Whatever we are called to do, Paul urges us to live a life worthy of our calling. Ephesians 4:1 says: "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Let's do that!