

Ephesians 3:2-13

2-3. If indeed you have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God** which was **given to me** for your, how that **by revelation** He made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words).

Definition: "DISPENSATION" - a particular arrangement, system or provision of God's commandments and promises to mankind. For example, we do not live under the DISPENSATION of the **Old Testament Law** anymore, but we live under the New covenant (New testament) in the blood of Jesus Christ, which is the **dispensation of God's grace**.

- **Acts 26:15-18** "So I (Paul) said, 'Who are you, Lord? And He said, 'I am whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on you feet' for I have _____ to you for this purpose, to make you a _____ and a _____ both of the things which you have seen and of the **things which I will** yet _____ to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I _____ you, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."
- **Galatians 1:11-12** "But I make known to you brethren, that the _____ which was preached by me is _____ according to _____. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the _____ of Jesus Christ.

4-5. By which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which **in other ages was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has **now been revealed by the Spirit** to His holy **apostles** and prophets:

- **Acts 10:28** "The he said to them, 'You know how unlawful (according to the Old Testament law) it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has _____ me that I should not call any man common or unclean."
- **Acts 11:1, 17-18** "Now the _____ and _____ who were in Judea heard that the _____ had also received the word of God." (Verse 17) "If therefore God _____ the **same gift He gave us** when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God? (Verse 18) "When they (the Jews) heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then God has also _____ to the _____ repentance to [eternal] life."
- **Romans 16:25-26** "..... according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation** of the _____ which was kept _____ since the world began, but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic scriptures has been made _____ to all nations ... "

6. That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of **the same body**, and **partakers of His promise** in Christ through the gospel,

- **II Corinthians 1:20** "For all the _____ of God in Him (Jesus) are "Yes" and in Him "Amen," to the glory of God through _____ ."
- **Read Romans 11:11-25** (Verse 11) "I say then, have they (the Jews) stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to _____ , _____ has come to the _____ ."
- **Romans 12:4-5** "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being _____ , are one _____ in Christ, and individually members of one _____ ."

7. Of which I became a **minister** according to the **gift of grace** of God **given to me** by the effective working of His power.

- **Colossians 1:25** "Of which I became a **minister** according to the stewardship from God which was _____ to me for _____ , to fulfill the word of God."
- **Romans 15:15-16** "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of **the grace** _____ to _____ by _____ , That I might be a _____ of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, **ministering** the _____ of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

8. To me, who am **less than the least of all the saints**, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches** of Christ.

- **Romans 11:33** "Oh, the depth of the _____ both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How _____ are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"
- **I Corinthians 15:9** "For I am the _____ of the apostles, who am not _____ to be called an apostle, because I _____ the church of God."
- **I Timothy 1:15** "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save _____ , of whom I am _____ ."
- **Galatians 1:13** "For you have heard of my _____ conduct in Judaism, how I _____ the church of God beyond measure and tried to _____ it."

Why did Paul think he was the "least of all the saints" and the "greatest" (chief) of all the sinners?

9-10. "And to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which **from the beginning of the ages** has been **hidden** in God who **created all things through Jesus Christ**; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the **principalities and powers** in heavenly places,

- **Colossians 1:16** "For by Him (Jesus) all things were _____ that are in heaven and that are on Earth, _____ and _____ , whether thrones or dominions or _____ through Him and _____ ."

Definition: "PRINCIPALITIES" and "Rulers of the Darkness of this Age" - these refer to **Satan and his demons** and their **system of power** over the nations and governments of this world.

- **I Corinthians 2:6-8** "however, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this _____ , nor of the _____ of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the _____ of God in a **mystery**, the _____ **wisdom** which God ordained _____ the ages for our glory, which none of the _____ of _____ knew, for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."
- **Ephesians 6:12** "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **PRINCIPALITIES** against, _____ , against the _____ of the _____ of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the _____ places."
- **Revelation 12:9** ".... and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old, who is call the _____ and _____ , who deceives the whole world; he was cast (thrown down) to the Earth and his (Satan's) _____ were cast out with him."
- **Colossians 2:14-15** "And He (Jesus) has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed _____ and _____ , He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (the cross)."

11. According to the **eternal purpose** which **He accomplished in Christ Jesus** our Lord,

- **Hebrews 13:20-21** "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through **the blood of the _____ covenant**, make you complete in every good work to do His _____ , working in you what is well _____ in His sight, **through Jesus Christ**, to whom be _____ forever and ever. Amen."

12. In whom we have **boldness** and access with **confidence** through faith in Him.

- **Hebrews 4:16** "Let us therefore come _____ to the **throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find _____ to help in time of need."
- **I John 5:14** "Now this is the _____ which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to _____ , He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions (prayers) that we have asked of Him."

13. Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at **my tribulations for you**, which is your glory.

- **II Corinthians 11:24-27** "From the Jews five time I received forty stripes minus one (a severe whipping). Three times _____ with rods; once I was _____ ; three times I was _____ ; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils (danger) of water, in perils of _____ , in perils of my own countrymen (the Jews), in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils of wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in _____ and _____ , in fastings often, in cold and nakedness - -"
- **II Corinthians 12:10** "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities (physical weakness), in reproaches, in _____ , in _____ , in _____ , **for Christ's sake**. For when I am weak, then I am strong [*in the Lord*]."
- **Romans 5:3-4** " And not only that, but we also _____ in **tribulations**, knowing that _____ produces _____ ; and perseverance [*produces*] character; and character [*produces*] hope."
- **James 1:2-3** "My brethren, count it all _____ when you fall into various trials (**tribulations**), knowing that the _____ of your _____ produces _____ ."

Definition: "Tribulation" - "distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution." Paul **suffered** many things for the sake of Christ and His church.