

The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

The Epistle for the Epiphany of Our Lord is Ephesians 3:1-12. The Jewish people were the Covenant people from whom would come Jesus the Savior of the world. That did not mean that non-Jewish people would be accepted into the Jewish fellowship. Those who were proselytites tended to few and had to come to Israel.

When Jesus came to fulfill the Law, suffer, die and be raised, everything changed. As he was about to ascend into heaven, he told the disciples to make disciples of all nations. Now the Gentiles were to be included and Jews and Gentiles were brought together into one church.

This was a radical change for the people of that time and therefore the Early Church did not universally approve of the missions to Gentiles. Paul lays claim that the Lord had commissioned him to fulfill God's plan to bring the Gentiles the good news of salvation through faith apart from works. That was the *mystery* to which Paul refers. That is the plan that God is actively working out and revealing stage by stage. It is a plan that Paul or we would never have figured out without God's Word.

Our faith is not just "personal," is part of the design of the universe itself. For this God created us.

When Paul states: *according to the gift of God's grace*, in verse 7, he sees grace bringing him the power necessary to preach the Gospel. Grace also equips us for ministry.

Prayer: Lord, lead me to serve according to your gifts and calling, rather than by my reason or strength. Amen.
(TLSB)