

I Know A Secret

Introduction: Paul showed us that the "mystery" is important in 4 groups of people.

I) It was important to Paul - *Ephesians 3:1-5*

A) Two descriptions of Paul - prisoner and minister - *Ephesians 3:1, 7*.

1) United Jew and Gentile into one body.

2) Paul, a leader in Jewish orthodoxy, began a ministry in a church composed of Jew and Gentile.

B) Paul knew God had called him to minister to Gentiles - *Acts 9:15; 26:13-18; Romans 11:13; 15:15-16*.

1) Accused of prejudice against the Jews.

2) Showed the good will between Jews and Gentiles - *Romans 15:25-33; Acts 21:17-18*.

3) Arrested - *Acts 21:30-33*. Riots ensued when he spoke of preaching to Gentiles *Acts 22:22-23*.

C) Paul was a prisoner and minister of the "mystery"

1) God made him a steward of the "mystery".

2) Dispensation God had given Him.

II) It was important to the Gentiles - *Ephesians 3:6-8*.

1) Christ's work on the cross reconciled Jew and Gentile - *Ephesians 2:11-22*.

2) Fellow heirs.

3) Gentiles could partake of God's promises - *Romans 11*.

4) It gave them new power - *Ephesians 3:7*.

5) New riches are available to Gentiles - *Ephesians 3:8; 2:7*.

III) Important to the angels - *Ephesians 3:9-10*.

1) Why did God keep the secret hidden?

2) Paul tells us "principalities and powers" involved - angels.

3) What do the angels learn from the church?

4) Another facet to this truth.

IV) God wants the mystery to be known to the church.

Conclusion: Here is an amazing truth: Now all believers are to be faithful stewards of this truth! This "sacred secret" important to Paul, the Gentiles and the angels, is now in our hands!