

I Know A Secret – Ephesians 3:1-13
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Introduction

1. In this paragraph, Paul explains his situation and, in doing so, also explains one of the greatest truths in this letter, the “mystery” of the church.
2. Paul explains the mystery - the Gentile believers are now united with the Jewish believers in one body, the church (3:6). In this paragraph Paul explains the tremendous impact of this “mystery” that had so possessed his own life and ministry.
3. Paul shows us that the “mystery” is important to four different groups of people...

I. It Was Important To Paul (3:1-5)

- a. The best way to grasp the importance of “the mystery” in Paul’s life is to focus on the two descriptions he gives of himself in this section. He begins by calling himself “a prisoner” (3:1), and then he calls himself “a minister” (3:7).
- b. This was the “dispensation”—or stewardship—that God had given him. And because Paul was a faithful steward, he was now a prisoner in Rome. But, in the end, it brought great glory to God and salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

II. It Was Important To The Gentiles (3:6-8)

- a. As you can imagine what exciting news it would be to know that God has saved you and added you to His kingdom along with the Jews!
- b. To begin with, they are fellow-heirs with the Jews and share in the spiritual riches of God (Galatians 3:29). They are fellow-members of the body of Christ – the church (Ephesians 4:4). Finally, they get to partake in God’s promises (Ephesians 2:12).

III. It Is Important To The Angels (3:9-10)

- a. Paul tells us that “the principalities and powers” are also involved in this great secret. God is “educating” the angels by means of the church! (Ephesians 1:21; 6:12; Colossians 1:16; 2:15)
- b. What, then, do the angels learn from the church? “The manifold wisdom of God” (Ephesians 3:10). Even Satan and his demons are learning about God’s wondrous plan; that God has put both Jews and Gentiles into one body and that we have complete victory over him! However, this secret is for all believers...

IV. It Is Important To Christians Today

- a. Paul’s words are a reminder that the church is at the heart of God’s eternal purpose. The church is at the heart of His plan.
- b. Paul’s also reminds us that the complete gospel includes both the preaching of Christ and the mystery of the church. Jesus so loved the church that He “gave Himself up for her” (5:25). This church means more to Jesus than we can ever begin to understand!