

Ephesians Series

Lesson #090

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Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

**Speed Bumps, Pot Holes, and Detours
Are God's Plan
Ephesians 3:7–9**

Paul stayed in Ephesus for almost three years (Autumn AD 53–Spring 56), Acts 19:1–41

Paul met with the Ephesian elders at Miletus in the Spring 57.

In late May 57 Paul was arrested in Jerusalem, and imprisoned for two years in Caesarea by the Sea, 57–59.

He then travelled to Rome and was imprisoned there for two years, 60–62.

Eph 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”

**Τούτου χάριν, *toutou charin*;
“for this reason”**

Eph 3:13, “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

**ἐγκακέω *enkakeō*
pres act inf,
become tired, lose
heart, become
discouraged**

**θλίψις *thlipsis* fem
plur dat
trouble, tribulation,
oppression,
suffering**

Key Underlying Question

How has my arrest and imprisonment for five years changed God's plan for your life?

Key Underlying Question

How has my arrest and imprisonment for five years changed God's plan for your life?

Key Underlying Question for Us—

How has the election changed God's plan for your life?

Questions

In Eph. 3:2 we asked: What is the meaning of “*the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me*”?

Also, in vs. 7: What is the meaning of “*the gift of the grace of God given to me*”?

**1 Pet. 5:7, “casting all your care upon Him,
for He cares for you.”**

Phil. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

Phil. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 15:18, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

John 15:19, “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 15:20, “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Phil. 4:12, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Phil. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Eph. 3:7, “of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

- 1. Narrow meaning: What must be believed to be justified.**
- 2. Broad meaning: the message of justification plus how to live the abundant life, John 10:10; Romans.**
- 3. The good news of the removal of the barriers between Jew and Gentile, and everyone and God.**

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Eph. 3:7, “of which [the gospel] I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

Eph. 3:2. “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “now that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

Eph. 3:5, “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:

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Eph. 3:7, “of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

1. Frequently this phrase is used in connection with the spiritual gifts that God gives. Either the words *charismata* or *dorean* are used.

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Rom. 12:6, “Since we have gifts [*charismata*] that differ according to the grace [*charis*] given [*didomi* aor pass ptcp] to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;”

2. Paul uses the phrase “grace given to me” to refer to his spiritual gift and office as an apostle.

1 Cor. 3:10, “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.”

Rom. 12:3, “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

Acts 26:17, “ ‘I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

Acts 26:18, “ ‘to open their eyes, in order 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.’ ”

Eph. 3:7, “of which I was made a minister, according to *the gift [dorea] of God’s grace which was given to me* according to the working of His power.

Eph. 3:8, “To me, the very least of all saints, *this grace was given* [*didomi aor pass ind*], to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,”

Wealth/riches of Christ (Eph. 1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16)

3. The mission God gave to Paul as an apostle was to proclaim the mystery doctrine of the church, Jew and Gentile united together as one new man, and one new body, and one new temple.

Eph. 3:8, “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach the good news to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [~RD]”

Eph. 3:9, “and to reveal to all what is the dispensation [administration] of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;”

4. Conclusion: *grace given to me* refers to Paul's apostolic gift/office and apostolic function.

And this message and mission is the message and mission today.

4. Conclusion: *grace given to me* refers to Paul's apostolic gift/office, his mission, and his message.

The application for us is that his message is our message and his mission is ours to carry on.

Eph. 3:8, “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach the good news to the Gentiles the unsearchable wealth of Christ, [RD]

Eph. 3:9, “and to reveal to all what is the dispensation [administration] of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;”

Hab. 3:17, “Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—

Hab. 3:18, “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Hab. 3:19, “The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.”

Lam. 3:18, “And I said, ‘My strength and my hope have perished from the Lord.’

Lam. 3:19, “Remember my affliction and roaming, the wormwood and the gall.

Lam. 3:20, “My soul still remembers and sinks within me.

Lam. 3:21, “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.”

Lam. 3:22, “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Lam. 3:23, “They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Lam. 3:24, “ ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’

Lam. 3:25, “The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

Lam. 3:26, “It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”