

February 2016

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

CHAPLAINS TO SERVE YOU

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Monthly Reading

The Church a Mystery Hidden from the Past Age

Ephesians Chptr. 3



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Mystery



They say time flies when you are having fun. I must be having fun because time is flying right by. Here I am preparing February's newsletter. The answer to this is yes! I am enjoying my time writing this newsletter, but I can not believe that it is already February. Our title this month is "Mystery." I think it is safe to say that most people enjoy a good mystery. *Definition:*

myster-y 1 *mistrē* / *noun:* *mystery*; *plural noun:* *mysteries* 1. *something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain. "the mysteries of outer space"* *synonyms:* *puzzle, enigma, conundrum, riddle, secret, problem, unsolved problem "his death remains a mystery."* The mystery that I want to explore in this letter is: The church age a mystery hidden from past ages. In Ephesians Chapter 3: 1-5 The Apostle Paul gives explanation to the mystery:

1. "For this reason I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles, 2. if indeed you have heard, of the stewardship if God's grace which was given to me for you; 3. that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery as I wrote before in brief. 4. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5. which in

other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit." The apostle Paul was given special knowledge regarding that salvation was now available to all men not just the Jewish believers. In past ages if you wanted to come to God you had to become a Jew (Jewish convert). A new class of people were coming into existence; not a Jew or a Gentile but the Church of God. Jesus Christ had met Paul, who at that time was called Saul, on the road to Damascus where he was on his way to arrest those who were followers of Jesus. Paul was involved in the death of those who followed Jesus. Saul was super naturally converted and was given special revelation as to knowledge of Christ and His plan of salvation. Also Jesus changed Saul's name to Paul. This mystery had been unknown and brought revelation that set the world on its nose. The pages of the new testament epistles are filled over flowing with this subject. Paul's conversion and the changes to his life as he fulfilled the calling of Jesus Christ would put him in great peril many times nearly costing him his life. At the time of

writing the book of Ephesians Paul was a prisoner of the Romans. In many times and places this mystery is called, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and also called the Good News. Yes it is good news that man now can be saved by receiving the fact that God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to be the Savior. The Gospel of John Chapter 3 Verses 16, 17 state it this way; 16. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." What is asked of us is that we simply receive this message as true. Jesus Christ died on the cross making full payment for the penalty of our sin. In this we are the recipients of this "Mystery". The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Chaplain Rob Hill

Did You Know?

"The Apostle Paul, who started as one of Christianity's most zealous enemies, was hand-picked by Jesus Christ to become the gospel's most ardent messenger. Paul traveled tirelessly through the ancient world, taking the message of salvation to the Gentiles. Paul towers as one of the all-time giants of Christianity. The Apostle Paul's Accomplishments: When Saul of Tarsus, who was later renamed Paul, saw the resurrected Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road, Saul converted to Christianity. He made three long missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire, planting churches, preaching the gospel, and giving strength and encouragement to early Christians. Of the 27 books in the New Testament, Paul is credited as the author of 13 of them. While he was proud of his Jewish heritage, Paul saw that the gospel was for the Gentiles as well. Paul was martyred for his faith in Christ by the Romans, about 64 or 65 A.D. The Apostle Paul's Strengths: Paul had a brilliant mind, a commanding knowledge of philosophy and religion, and could debate with the most educated scholars of his day. At the same time, his clear, understandable explanation of the gospel made his letters to early churches the foundation of Christian theology. Tradition portrays Paul as a physically small man, but he endured enormous physical hardships on his missionary journeys. His perseverance in the face of danger and persecution has inspired countless missionaries since. Referenced in the Bible: Acts 9-28; Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 2 Peter 3:15."

Information taken from: about.com / [about religion & spirituality](http://aboutreligion.com/)