

## Ephesians 3

### History of Gentile Church – Early Church Jewish (Acts 2)

Acts 9 – Paul converted (Damascus), preaches (3 yrs Gal 1:18), Jews plot to kill him

Barnabas brings him to apostles (Jerusalem), preaches, Hellenist try to kill him

Tarsus (9ish yrs)

Acts 10 - Peter & Cornelius (Gentiles)

Acts 11 - “circumcision” confront Peter, Revelation: Gentiles Salvation (vs 18)  
Barnabas gets Paul (vs 25), brings to Antioch (vs 26), taught (1 yr)

Acts 13 - Barnabas & Paul set apart for ministry from Antioch  
1<sup>st</sup> Journey (Cyprus, Asia Minor), Jews envy Gentile crowds, persecute focus on Gentiles (vs 46-48)

Acts 15 - men from Judea to Antioch teaching circumcision/salvation  
Jerusalem Council (14 yrs later Gal 2:1)

Peter, Barnabas/Paul testimonies, James ruling (scripture)

Decree to Antioch with Barnabas/Paul (only exempted Gentiles)

(Ac 21:18-21) <sup>18</sup>On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. <sup>19</sup>When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. <sup>20</sup>And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; <sup>21</sup>“but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

(Ac 21:25) <sup>25</sup>“But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that they should observe no such thing,

### Nature of Paul’s Gospel and Calling

Revelation (Scripture), Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom 11:13)

(Ga 1:11-2:10) <sup>11</sup>But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup>For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. >>> <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, >>> <sup>7</sup>But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

### Principles

if we get locked into a religious mindset we will think too small

Jews underestimated their Freedom and their Reach (Acts 1:8)

Revelation comes from Intimacy with Jesus, opening His Word, not traditions  
foundation (Eph 2:20) - Jesus, Word (apostolic/prophetic grace)

### verses 1-7

“for this reason” = Chapter 2 - Jew/Gentile separation/enmity over law  
made one/at peace through Jesus

same Grace message: citizens, sons, access to Father in Jesus alone

Prisoner of Christ for Gentiles (Acts 21 law issues, written from Roman prison)

not bond servant, prisoner (Acts 23:18, 25:14, Eph 4:1, 2 Tim 1:8, Philemon)

(2Ti 1:11-12) <sup>11</sup>to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. <sup>12</sup>For this reason I also suffer these things;

attitude: cost of commitment to Christ/His Calling

Apostle to Gentiles by His Power (vs 2, 7), Message by Revelation (vs 3)

Mystery (Ancient Predestined Plan - Eph 1) (Col 1:27)

Gentiles (anyone) fellow heirs, same body, partakers of His promise in Christ (vs 6)

### verses 8-13

Unsearchable Riches of Christ - Inheritance (Eph 1:18)

Fellowship/Stewardship of the Mystery - participation in family business

Church Displays His Wisdom to principalities and powers

Ch 1 - church expresses His Fullness

How? Boldness, Access, Confidence in Him

### Principles

we each have Calling, Inheritance, Empowerment (Eph 1:18-19)

we can have a Message by Revelation

we each have a Role in His Body (Eph 2:21-22)

we can have bold, confident access to His Fullness