

# A servant of the gospel

March 2024 (#2)

\* Praise with joy : Hymn 38 “Jesus, we enthrone You”, Jesus, Hope of the nations

\* Bible verse : Ephesians 3 : 1-13

\* Focusing on Words : Paul was called at an important time when the gospel of Jesus Christ was spreading out to Gentiles. This gospel that the Holy Spirit let the apostles and prophets know was once hidden but now revealed to everyone. Now it is challenging to know what this mystery, your duties, the gospel, the grace, the salvation are all about. Therefore, today's text is an encouragement to let the Ephesian church believers know they became servants of God's plan.

\* Understanding the background : Paul is explaining the mystery he understood to the Ephesian church believers. Paul was requested to do his best to follow this mystery by God. The power for Paul to prevail without failure through the imprisonment and all the sufferings was given by the purpose of mission to follow the mystery.

\* Sharing the Words

1. #. Observing & Contemplating : Read Ephesians 3 : 1-6

1) It says that Paul understood the mystery of Christ because God had said that. God had said that in three ways. What are they?

- Look for the answers in verse 3-4.

: The mystery was made known to you by revelation. We can understand the mystery of Christ by reading the Words. Paul delivers the mystery he understood by writing down in the bible. We can only understand the mystery of Christ through the bible, God's Words.

- Look for the answers in the first half of verse 5.

: It was not made known to man in other generations. It looked vague to men in other generations as if they saw it through the mirror. The other generations here mean the generations which were not born again by the Holy Spirit. The bible warns that the other generations which do not know God will rise at the end.

- Look for the answers in the last half of verse 5.

: It has now been revealed by the Spirit. The mystery of Christ was made known to us by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit not of men. (Ephesians 1 : 8-9) The Holy Spirit will let us understand the mystery of Christ because it belongs to Christ.

#. Applying & Sharing

1) Have you found any mysterious recipe when you were learning how to cook? When you share that mysterious recipe with others, more people can enjoy the delicious dishes. Do you have any experience sharing that mysterious recipe? How did you feel

as you shat? Did you find any similarity between sharing the mysterious recipe and sharing the mystery of Christ's gospel?

: Having people enjoy the delicious dishes by sharing the mysterious recipe and sharing the mystery of Christ's gospel both give you such great joy. This is the same joy Paul had had. Please share your experiences in which you felt the same great joy.

2. #. Observing & Contemplating : Read Ephesians 3 : 7-13

1) Paul says God called him to become a servant of this gospel. He says we are called to become the same servant. What does Paul say the purpose to call you to become a servant is?

- Look for the answers in verse 8.

: The purpose is to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ's grace. The unreachable riches of grace Paul received were unfathomable. Therefore, He could do nothing but preach to all the people the grace he had given. That's the purpose of calling servants of the gospel.

- Look for the answers in verse 9-10.

: His intent is that the manifold wisdom of God should be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. Therefore, we have to do our best to preach the mysterious gospel without any fear.

#. Applying & Sharing

1) What do you think is necessary to remember everyday the unsearchable riches of Christ's grace in your life? What do you do in order not to forget the grace of God everyday?

: It would be good to look for things we can do not to forget the grace of words and the mission God called us for. It would be even better that all the members of the ranches would come up with their own resolutions to experience the unreachable riches of Christ's grace.

\* Conclusion : We can live life full of thankfulness and joy if we can remember the grace God gives us everyday. In order not to forget the grace of God, we must encourage each other to live a faithful life.

\* Prayers reflecting the words

1. Let us understand the mystery of Christ's gospel and not forget and enjoy the unreachable riches of Christ's grace.
2. Let the joy of Jesus Christ's resurrection and the assurance of my resurrection be strongly in my heart.
3. Let the grace be and be shared fully in the Inland church and flow to the world abundantly.