

# Stewardship of God's Grace

**(Ephesians 3:1-13)**


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# Introduction

- \* **New Testament concept of stewardship is important**
- \* **οἰκονομίαν (*oikonomian*)—administration, management**
- \* **prisoner and steward**
- \* **Why is the stewardship of God's grace so important?**

# Stewardship was **given by God (3:2)**

- \* —the [thing] having been given
- \* Paul always understood his ministry was a gift from God
- \* Look at 3:7!
- \* John 3:16—Salvation is a gift



**\*We faithfully manage this stewardship of grace when we recognize and remind each other constantly that it all came from God**

# That stewardship was **for others (3:2)**

- \* Paul is a prisoner on behalf of his readers, Gentiles
- \* Possibly repeats “Gentiles” for effect: 3:1, 6, 8
- \* On behalf of you, for you, for you, your glory, 3:13
- \* Paul’s life was dedicated to the saving and reconciling of others

# Stewardship reveals a **mystery** (3:3-6)

- \* The mystery now revealed
- \* beginning of his calling (Acts 9:1-9).
- \* I have written before briefly...
- \* 21 of 28 times “mysterion” is used by Paul in the NT
- \* 6 of 21 in Ephesians! (1:9; 3:3,4, 9; 5:32; 6:19)

# Stewardship is faithful ministry (3:7-9)

- \* I was made a servant/minister (diakonos)
- \* According to the gift of God's grace (central to Paul's thought here!)
- \* We get our English word "deacon" from this word
- \* Paul constantly thought of his ministry in terms of service-- 4:12; 6:21

# Stewardship is exercised through the church (3:10)

- \* “Now”—emphasis on current function of the church
- \* Manifold wisdom of God—all the ways in which God’s work and ways are expressed through His people!
- \* To the principalities and powers in the heavenlies—see chapter 6—dark forces of evil



# According to God's eternal purpose (3:11)

- \* The gift of grace is part of God's eternal purpose
- \* Remember 1:4,5, 9 & 10!
- \* Also Romans 9:11
- \* Which “he has made”—something like “fashioned, or created”
- \* It is “in” Christ Jesus our Lord...

# **Can encourage others during suffering (3:12, 13)**

- \* We have two things...**
- \* “through the faith(fulness) of him”—  
possible translation**
- \* Wherefore, I ask you**
- \* Not to lose heart “in” (at/over) my  
afflictions/tribulations**
- \* Afflictions—it is for your glory!**

# Conclusion

**Why is the stewardship of grace so important in relationships?**

- \* Because ultimately it all comes from God**
- \* It allows us to live life for others**
- \* It is actually the revelation of a mystery—  
boots on the ground with grace, you can see it!**

# Conclusion

**Why is the stewardship of grace so important in relationships?**

- \* It is a faithful ministry of service**
- \* It works through the church for the will of God**
- \* It is part of the working out of God's eternal plan**
- \* It allows our own suffering on behalf of others to be for their glory!**