THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD
Eph. 3:2

Introduction:
A. Paul given "the dispensation of the grace of God"
   1. Dispenation = "stewardship" (cf. 1 Cor. 9:17)
   2. Grace = "unmerited favor".
      a. A quality. (Col. 4:6).
      b. A disposition.
      c. A benefit.
         (1) A gift. (cf. Eph. 2:7,8)
         (2) A privilege. (Eph. 3:2,8; 2 Cor. 8:1,2,7).
B. Paul touches on three areas of the stewardship of the grace of God in Eph. 3:

Discussion:
I. The Grace To Know The Mystery of Christ (vv. 1-7)
   A. The giving of this grace.
      1. Given by the Holy Spirit. (v. 5; cf. 1 Cor. 2:12,13)
      2. Given to apostles and prophets for us. (v. 2-5 cf. Gal. 1:11,12)
         a. They received by revelation.
         b. We receive by hearing them. (v. 4 cf. Rom. 10:6-8,17)
   B. The greatness of this grace.
      1. To know "mystery". (vs. 4,5,9)
         a. Things "eye had not seen, nor ear heard" (1 Cor. 2:7-10)
         b. Things the O.T. prophets and angels wanted to know. (1 Pet. 1:8-12)
      2. To know that all men can be:
         a. Fellow heirs of God. (v. 6)
         b. Of the same body. (v. 6; cf. 1:22,23; 2:14-18)
         c. Partakers of God's promise. (v. 6; Gal. 3:26-29).
II. The Grace To Preach The Mystery Of Christ. (vv. 8-13)
   A. To preach "unsearchable riches of Christ"! (v.8).
   B. To make all men see that:
      1. All things were created through Jesus Christ (v. 9)
      2. The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church. (v.10-11)
         a. God created all things in Christ to this "intent:.
         b. Church was no after thought, but in God's eternal purpose.
      3. We have boldness and access through confidence ... in Him.
         a. Boldness because or sins are remitted. (Acts 2:38)
         b. Boldness because He is faithful.
      4. There is no need to faint (lose heart) during trouble. (v. 13)
III. The Grace To Obey The Mystery Of Christ. (vv. 14-21)
   A. To bow knee to God as the Father of Jesus Christ. (vv. 14,15)
      1. Paul bowed knee to pray for Ephesians. (vv. 16-19).
      2. Paul bowed knee to glorify God. (vv. 20-21)
   B. To bow knee to Christ in obedience. (Phil. 2:9-13)
      1. Obey gospel. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
Conclusion:

A. What marvelous grace is bestowed upon us in this age!
   1. God has given us the apostolic revelation.
   2. God has given us the privilege to know and preach gospel.
   3. God has given us the privilege to worship and serve Him through Christ.

B. What are we to do about this marvelous grace? (4:1)
   "I, therefore, ... beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling ..."