The Dispensation Of The Grace Of God
Eph. 3:2

Introduction:
A. Paul was given “the dispensation of the grace of God”
   1. Dispensation means “stewardship” (cf. 1 Cor. 9:17)
   2. Grace is “unmerited favor” bestowed on one.
      a. It may be a gift. (cf. Eph. 2:7,8)
      b. It may be a privilege (Eph. 3:2,8; 2 Cor. 8:1,2,7)
B. Paul’s “dispensation” had three parts as explained in Eph 3:

Discussion:

II. The Grace to Possess the Gospel (vv. 1-7)
   A. The receiving of this grace.
      1. Apostles and prophets received it by revelation (vv. 3,5; cf. 1 Cor. 2:12,13; Gal. 1:11,12).
      2. Others receive it by hearing (or reading) them. (v. 4 cf. Rom. 10:17)
   B. The greatness of this grace.
      1. To know things that were “a mystery”. (vs. 4,5,9)
         a. Things that are “unsearchable” (v. 8)
         b. Things “eye had not seen, nor ear heard” (1 Cor. 2:7-10)
         c. Things the O.T. prophets and angels wanted to know. (1 Pet. 1:8-12)
      2. To know that all men can be heirs of God. (v. 6)
      3. To know about the body of Christ. (v. 6; cf. 1:22,23)
      4. To know about being a partaker of God's great promise. (v. 6; Gal. 3:29).

III. The Grace to Preach the Gospel (vv. 8-13)
   A. A necessity, yet a grace with no room to boast. (1 Cor. 9:16-18 cf. Eph. 2:8,9).
   B. Preach so that all may see:
      1. Christ and the church in God’s eternal purpose (vv. 9-12)
      2. That there is no need to faint (lose heart) during trouble. (v. 13)

IV. The Grace to Practice the Gospel (vv. 14-20)
   A. The “bowed knee” symbolizes worship and submission (cf. Rom. 11:4 cf. Phil. 2:8-12).
   B. The “bowed knee” recognizes God’s authority and greatness.
      1. Bow in service and obedience under the gospel.
      2. Bow in honor and praise of Him under the gospel.
   C. Paul’s “bowed knee” here likely in prayer (v. 16ff).
      1. His prayer for the Ephesians. (vv. 16-19)
      2. His praise of God. (vv. 20-21)

Conclusion:
A. What a marvelous grace God to possess, preach and practice the gospel!
B. What are we to do about this marvelous grace? (4:1)