

EPIC SCAVING



19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building [the church], being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you [Gentiles] also are being built together [with the Jews] for a [singular] dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1b I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus [not of Rome] for you Gentiles — v. 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation [a stewardship] of the grace of God which was given to me for you [Gentiles],



Deuteronomy 15:15-17 gives us the picture of a bondservant

15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

16 And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you,

17 then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever.

Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

Romans 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles...

2 Timothy 1:11 to which [Gospel] I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles

Acts 1:21-23

21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us [from when?] all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these MUST become a witness with us of His resurrection."

23 And they proposed two [who met that criteria]: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

The Scriptural Proof and Verification of His Apostleship

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the [unbreakable] seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:11-12

I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

12 Truly, the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, **in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.**

These are similar kinds of signs and wonders that were accomplished by Jesus

Acts 2:22

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him [by His Spirit] in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

Also by all of the Twelve

Acts 5:12

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Acts 5:43

Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

By Peter Specifically
Acts 5:14

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

What is the substance of the grace he received for the Gentiles?

v. 3 how that by [personal] revelation He made known to me [Paul] the mystery [previously unrevealed truth] (as I have briefly written already [in chapter 1 v. 9]).

Let us remind ourselves what is the mystery, briefly revealed to Paul in chapter 1:10-11

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — **in Him.**

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,

v.4 by which, when you read [the mystery I am expanding on now], you may understand [how I came about] my knowledge in the mystery of [or revelation from] Christ),

v.5 which [mystery] in other ages ['genea', generations] was not made known to the sons of men, as it has been now revealed [in this the Church Age] by the Spirit to His holy Apostles and Prophets.

v.6 [the continuation of the mystery from chapter 1 is this]: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same [singular] body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

v.7 of which [mystery and gospel] I became a minister [a servant] according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power [in me and through me, which is His Spirit].

Verse 8, Paul's Reaction to Having been entrusted with this great mystery

v.8 To me, who am less than **the least of all the saints**, this grace [this mystery and the gospel] was given,

1 Timothy 1:12-16

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, [what reason?] that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

v. 8b [grace was given so] that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable [without boundaries or limitations] riches of Christ, v. 9 and to make all see [or give light to] what is the fellowship of the mystery [Jews and Gentiles as one], which [oneness in fellowship between Jew and Gentile] from the beginning [the start] **of the ages** has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 1:1-2 reads:

1 God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2 in these last days spoke to us in ~~His~~ Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the ~~worlds~~ AGES,

Acts 17:26-27

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,
27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

v.10 to the intent that now [in this age or dispensation] the manifold [wide varieties of] wisdom of God [regarding the Ages] might be made known by [or through] the church to the principalities [rulers] and powers [authorities that rule specifically] IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES

v.11 [This revealing was done in this Age at this time] according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

v.12 in whom [Christ Jesus our Lord] we have boldness and access [to the Father] with confidence [which comes] through faith in Him.

v.13 Therefore, I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a High Priest [that represents us to God] who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly [believing confidently] to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace [forgiveness, teaching, power, wisdom, guidance] to help in time [or a precise season] of need.

v.13 **Therefore**, I ask that you do not lose **heart** at my tribulations for you, which is [for] your glory.

Matthew's Gospel refers to God as Father
44 times

- Mark's Gospel 4 times
- Luke's Gospel 17 times
- John's Gospel 120 times
- In total, the Gospels refer to God as Father 185 times!

v.15 from whom [the Lord Jesus Christ] the whole family in heaven and earth is named [Christian],

v.16 that He [the Father] would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man [where the heart is],

v.17 [in order] that Christ may dwell [be at ease, at home] in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in [a firm foundation of] love,

v.18 [that you] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — [the full dimensions]

v.19 [and] to know [experientially] the love of Christ, which [sur] passes [all] knowledge [that could possibly describe His love]; [I also pray] that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

v.20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

v. 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.

Chorus

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Chorus

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