

# Easy As 1-2-3



## Ephesians 3:1-13 <sup>1</sup>

### It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

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## Overall Understanding

### Ephesians 3:1-13<sup>2</sup>

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

Paul lived under house arrest under the constant observation of a prison guard. He could not come and go as he pleased, but he was allowed to write and preach the gospel. People were allowed to visit him. Instead of viewing himself as a prisoner of Rome, he saw himself as a prisoner of Jesus for the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup>if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup>by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

The church did not at first understand that the gospel was not only to the Jews but also to the Greeks. God revealed this to Peter by a vision, and again to Paul. Paul was greatly persecuted by the Christian Jews for teaching that Jews and Greeks were equal

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before God, and especially that both Jews and Gentiles were free from the law.

<sup>5</sup>which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: <sup>6</sup>that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,<sup>7</sup>of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Before the New Covenant, the Jews did not understand that the Gentiles would be fellow heirs with them in the same body—that they would be partakers of His promises.

God made him a minister of this good news by the grace that was given to him.

<sup>8</sup>To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Teaching the unsearchable riches of Christ is what Paul did. His main focus was to the Gentiles.

“Unsearchable” cannot mean that we can’t know what the riches are, but rather that there is no end to discovery. Just when we think we understand His accomplishments on the cross, there is more to discover.

Riches is defined in Strong’s as: *wealth (as fullness)*, that is, (literally) *money, possessions*, or (figuratively) *abundance, richness*, (specifically) *valuable bestowment*: - riches. While we normally see His riches as figurative, this does not rule out his abundant provision literally.

<sup>9</sup>and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ:

It had been hidden, but no longer.

<sup>10</sup>to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,

Notice that the manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church to principalities and powers. It is no longer a mystery.

<sup>11</sup>according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Paul is getting ready to pray for them. He wants them to know why Jesus died. By faith in Him, he had boldness and access to God.

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

Paul is trying to comfort them so that they won't be discouraged by what they had heard about his sufferings as a prisoner of Rome.

## *Coming Up in Chapter 3:14-21*

In the upcoming passage, Paul prays a powerful prayer for the believers, ending in an amazing proclamation of God's power toward them.