

**Ephesians 3:1,2**

**The example of Paul concerning his grace-gift**

**The example of Paul**

1. An example of one who had been specially given a grace-gift
2. It is in the context of the church that Paul sought to write about his grace-gift
3. There are many lessons for us to learn from his example

**The reason for Paul's ministry**

“For this reason” (Eph 3:1)

1. Τουτου χαριτι
  - a. This type of preposition is called “adverbial preposition”
  - b. Used as a causative preposition
2. The reasons for Paul's ministry
  - a. The grace of God that has been given to him (Eph 3:2, 7, 8)
  - b. Having the revelation of the mystery of Christ (Eph 3:3)
  - c. Being a minister of the gospel (Eph 3:7)
  - d. Grace given even though he was the least of all the saints (Eph 3:8)

**The imprisonment of Paul**

“I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles –” (Eph 3:1)

1. Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter to the Ephesians
2. δεσμιος...desmios...prisoner
  - a. He had been imprisoned a number of times
  - b. He considered himself a prisoner of the Lord Jesus
    - i. In a physical sense
    - ii. In a spiritual sense
  - c. He was imprisoned for the sake of Christ and the gospel
  - d. Other reference to Paul's imprisonment

Phil 1:7

“just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

### **The management of the grace of God**

“if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,” (Eph 3:2)

1. If indeed you have heard

a. ηκουσατε...akouo...hear

b. What Paul was writing about was well known

2. οικονομιαν...oikonomia...oikos...house...a steward managing the house...economy, stewardship

a. It is the management of a household

b. It is the responsibility that had been entrusted to Paul

c. Cf. Eph 1:10

“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.”

3. The grace of God

a. The Lord’s plan of salvation was by the grace of God

b. This grace of God was given to Paul as he was saved

c. He was entrusted with a special task to manage the grace of God

4. δοθεισης...didomi...to give

a. It was given to Paul

b. Passive idea...not from Paul himself...but from God

5. The many grace-gifts of Paul

a. The gift of apostleship Eph 1:1

b. The gift of revelation Eph 3:3

c. The gift of ministry Eph 3:7

d. The gift of preaching Eph 3:8