

CHAPTER 3:1-13 *“Paul’s Ministry to the Gentiles – The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed”*

Begin by reading these verses.

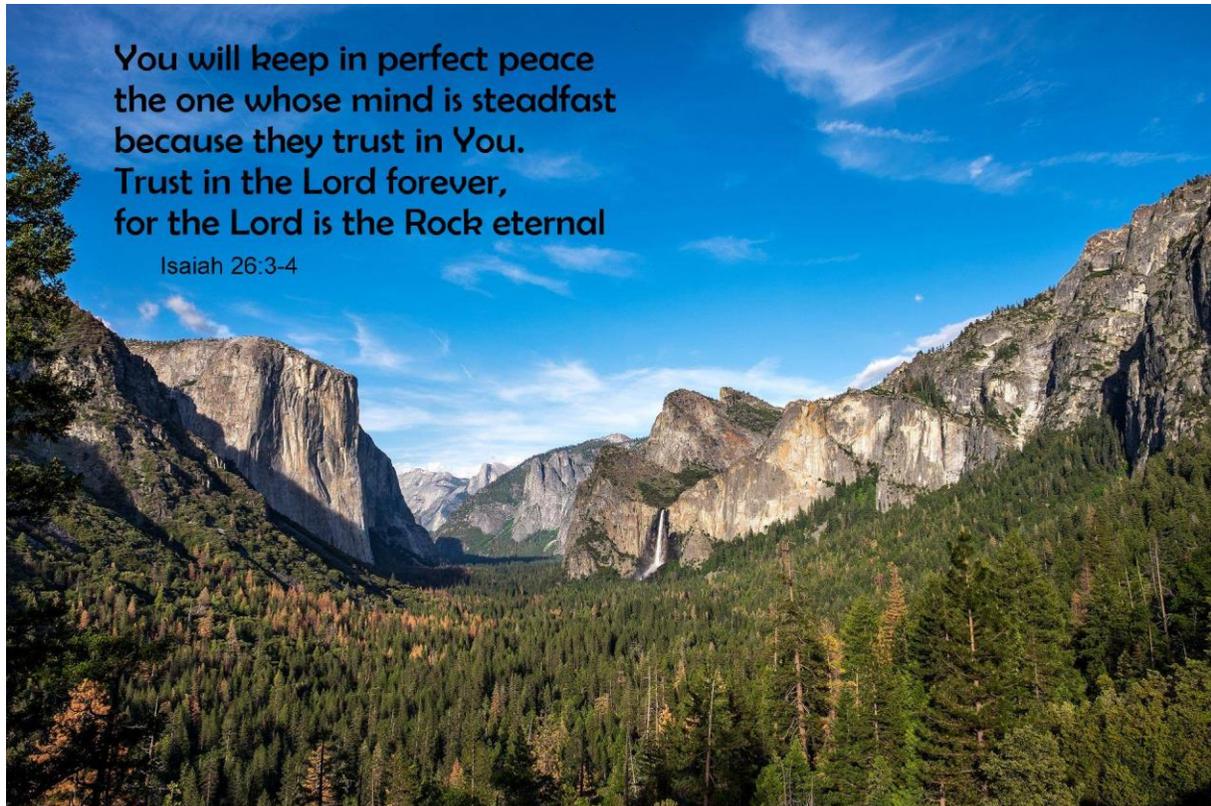
1. At the time of the writing of this letter, Paul was in prison in Rome, waiting to come before the Emperor Nero. The Romans thought that Paul was their prisoner, but he viewed himself as a prisoner of Jesus, eager to do His bidding. Read Philippians 4:22 and discover the surprising result of Paul’s “imprisonment”!
2. Paul is addressing the Gentiles – remember that is most of us. Acts 9:15 shows that this was God’s plan from the beginning.
3. Remember that verses 2- 13 are a digression from the prayer that Paul was going to offer. He begins by talking about the “commission (literally, stewardship) of God’s grace. How was Paul of steward of God’s grace given to him?
4. Read Acts 26:12-18 as the apostle recounts his original commission.
5. In verses 3 and 4, Paul again talks about the mystery of the Gospel, and that it came from God as a revelation. Paul had several revelations: Acts 9:3-6 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-5 tell about two of them.
6. The “mystery of Christ” was there in the Old Testament, but it was “veiled”. Prophetic passages that are particularly appropriate during this Easter season are worth re-reading: Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22:6-8, 14-18; Isaiah 53:3-9.
7. God’s mystery is made known by the Holy Spirit. That’s what Peter wrote: 1 Peter 1:20-21.
8. Notice what Paul indicates the Gentiles (like you) were. Think about what each of these things mean, then and now:
 - a) fellow heirs
 - b) members of the same body
 - c) sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
9. In verse 7, Paul says that he is “a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me.” Think about what we learned about the nature and role of God’s grace in the second chapter of Ephesians (vv. 8-9).
10. Paul never felt a sense of his own importance. It is here in verse 8 and also 1 Corinthians 15:9. Also read the beautiful passage in Philippians 3:4-11 where Paul indicates that although he was almost a “perfect Jew”, none of that mattered.... nothing was important compared to his relationship with Christ. The greatness of

Ephesians 3A Review, Ephesians 3:1-13

Paul was in the message, not the messenger!

11. What purpose does the apostle indicate that church has in the world (vv. 9-10)?
We have had a unique time in recent weeks to really feel the absence of the church in our lives. Imagine if the Christian church in all of its forms and related ministries would disappear from the world. What difference would there be? This would be a good time to thank God for calling His people together as the Church!
12. Paul refers to the eternal purpose of God. This reminds us that God's plan for our salvation began centuries before Jesus came to earth (remember the Old Testament prophecies). And also, Jesus death was not an accidental interruption to Jesus' ministry, but a part of that eternal purpose. For that, we praise God. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What is the wonderful benefit mentioned here that we have because Jesus became our Great High Priest through His crucifixion and resurrection?

Verse of the week:



Until we are together again, may God be with you!
Pastor Bob