

# Ephesians Series

Lesson #088

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**The Standards of Revelation**  
**Ephesians 3:6–7**

**Eph 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the  
prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”**

**Τούτου χάριν, *toutou charin*;  
“for this reason”**

**Eph. 3:13, “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”**

**ἐγκακέω *enkakeō*  
pres act inf,  
become tired, lose  
heart, become  
discouraged**

**θλίψις *thlipsis* fem  
plur dat  
trouble, tribulation,  
oppression,  
suffering**

**Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

**Eph. 3:3, “that by revelation He made  
known to me the mystery (as I have briefly  
written already,” [~RD]**

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## **Paraphrase**

**God made known to me according to the standard of [divine] revelation the mystery ... which was not made known to the human race as it has only now been revealed by the Holy Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.**

- 1. God made something known to Paul.**
- 2. What was made known was called a “mystery,” something never before revealed, but was God’s closely guarded secret.**
- 3. The way it was made known was “according to the standard of revelation.”**

**Eph. 3:3, “that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,” [~RD]**

**ἀποκάλυψις *apokalupsis* fem sing gen  
revelation; disclosure, unveiling**

# **What the Bible Teaches About**

# **Divine Revelation**



# 1. Key words

**ἀποκάλυψις *apokalupsis* revelation;  
disclosure.**

**ἀποκαλύπτω *apokalyptō*, uncover,  
disclose, reveal; the opposite of cover  
up, conceal.**

**γνωρίζω; *gnōrizō*; to make known,  
Eph. 3:5, 10**

**Revelation discloses information which  
is necessary to correctly understand  
and interpret the events of our lives.**

**Luke 2:15, “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ”**

# 1. Key words

**φανερῶ *phaneroō* aor pass part neut  
sing gen “to make known, reveal, to  
show, to manifest”**

**cognate noun, φανέρωσις *phanerōsis*,  
“revelation, manifestation, disclosure”**

**Rom. 16:25, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”**

**2. God the Father uses God the Holy Spirit to reveal His Word to the Old Testament prophets, and then in this dispensation to the New Testament apostles and prophets.**

**Eph. 3:5, “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:”**

**3. This is not something that can be learned by the use of either reason or empiricism. We can't think our way to this conclusion or have something to discover in the laboratory based on our knowledge or experience.**

**1 Cor. 2:9, “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen [empiricism], nor ear heard [empiricism], nor have entered into the heart of man [rationalism], the things [the content of divine revelation] which God has prepared for those who love Him.’**

**1 Cor. 2:10, “But God has revealed those things to us through His [Holy] Spirit. For the [Holy] Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.**

**1 Cor. 2:11, “For what man knows the things of a man except the [human] spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the [Holy] Spirit of God.”**

**1 Cor. 2:12**, “Now we have received, not the spirit [thinking] of the world, but the [Holy] Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things [the content of divine revelation] that have been freely given to us by God.

**1 Cor. 2:13**, “These things [the content of divine revelation] we also speak, not in words which human wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual concepts with spiritual words. [~RD]

**1 Cor. 2:14**, “But the soulish [spiritually dead] man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God [the content of divine revelation], for those things are foolishness to him; nor can he know those things, because they are [human] spiritually discerned.”

**1 Cor. 2:15, “But he who is spiritual [regenerate with knowledge of ‘these things’] evaluates all things, yet he himself is evaluated by no one.”**

**4. The Old Testament testifies that Scripture was given through the Holy Spirit.**

**Zech. 7:12, “Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.”**

**2 Sam. 23:2, “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.**

**2 Sam. 23:3, “The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.’”**

**5. But in the New Testament, new information was revealed by the Holy Spirit to those who had the gift of New Testament apostle and New Testament prophecy.**

**Previously unrevealed truth is expressed through the terminology of “mystery.”**

**Eph. 1:9, “having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,”**

**Eph. 6:19, “and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,”**

**Eph. 3:10, “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,”**

**Col. 1:27, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”**

**Rom. 11:25, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”**

**Rom. 16:25, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”**

**1 Cor. 2:1, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the mystery of God.”**

**Col. 1:26, “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.**

**Col. 1:27, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”**

**Col. 2:2, “that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,”**

**Col. 4:3, “meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,”**

**1 Tim. 3:9, “holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.”**

**1 Tim. 3:16, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”**