



May 23-24, 2009

Mark Stuenzi

Prison Perspective

Ephesians 3:1-13

Since leaving the city of Ephesus...

Acts 21 – The religious leaders in Jerusalem motivate a violent crowd to attack Paul and he is physically beaten.

Acts 22 – He is arrested by the Roman authorities.

Acts 23 – A group of 40 men conspire to assassinate him.

Acts 24 – Paul is sent to Caesarea to stand trial. He refuses to bribe the governor and spends two years in prison.

Acts 25-26 – A new governor hears Paul’s case and Paul appeals to Caesar.

Acts 27 – On his way to Rome, he is shipwrecked and stranded for three months on an island where he is bitten by a venomous snake & miraculously survives.

Acts 28 – After arriving in Rome, Paul is placed under house arrest while he waits two years for a trial before Caesar.

I must never lose sight of:

The Savior who _____ me

The plan that _____ me

*¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*

The grace that _____ me

⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Spend some time each day reading, meditating on, studying, resting in and applying Ephesians 3:1-13. Here are some resources that may help:

<http://parkerhill.wordpress.com> – weekend follow-up questions for you and your small group

Life Lessons with Max Lucado - Ephesians (available at your favorite local Christian bookstore or online book seller)

www.crosswalk.com

www.studylight.org