

- 1 For this very reason, in light of all that I have just said,
I,
Paul,
The Prisoner of Jesus Christ,
in order that the blessings of this gospel might be made real and be used by you Gentiles
- 2 (If, indeed, you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace, which was given to me for your benefit. Well, maybe you haven't heard...So I'll tell you again.)
- 3 By revelation there was made known to me the Big Secret of God, as I wrote before in brief.
- 4 If you read it again, you will be able to understand my insight into the Big Secret of Christ.
- 5 In previous generations it was not revealed to the sons of humanity in the way it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.
- 6 To be specific, this Big Secret means that through the gospel the Gentiles
Are joint heirs together
and fellow members of the body together
and partners together of the promise in Christ Jesus.
- 7 This is the gospel of which I was made a minister in accord with the gift of God's grace.
This grace was given to me
by and with and for the working of God's power.
- 8 Can you believe it? This grace was given to me!
To me! The least! And, I might add, the shortest of all the saints!
To me this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the bottomless riches of Christ.
- 9 And more than that!
To me was given the great privilege of unveiling and inaugurating
What is the stewardship of that secret.
which has been hidden for ages in the heart of God who created all things.
- 10 It was given to me
in order that NOW it might be made known
to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places
through the church (drum roll please) -- The Many Splendored Wisdom of God!
- 11 It was just like God to carry out the purpose of the ages in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 12 In him we have boldness and access to the very throne of God.
And this bold entry we make confidently through faith in Christ.
- 13 Consequently, folks, pull yourselves together!
Don't lose heart at my stress and my sufferings on your behalf!
They are your glory. They are the proof that you actually have access to these blessings and privileges and powers.