

# **Be Rich: I Know a Secret**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 3:1-13.

B. The good news of the gospel is that we have been forgiven by Jesus Christ.

C. The "mystery" is also good news, which is some truth that God hid in the past that is now being revealed.

D. The mystery was that God would put the Jews and Gentiles together in a new creation, the church. (Galatians 3:28)

E. There are four different persons related to the mystery.

## II. Paul.

### A. Revelation.

1. All Paul knew at one point was the law.

2. Christ saved Paul by revealing himself.

3. Christ also revealed the mystery to Paul.

### B. Dispensation.

1. God handed Paul the truth of the mystery.

2. God was faithful to the stewardship of the mystery.

### C. Tribulation.

1. Because Paul was faithful to the stewardship of the mystery, he was thrown in prison.

2. Paul was willing to go to prison for the truth.

## III. Gentiles.

A. The Gentiles were formerly without Christ in the world. (Galatians 2:11-12)

B. The theme of the mystery is that God is putting things together. (Galatians 1:10)

C. God's power goes to work in those who become part of the mystery.

D. We are all one in Jesus Christ--no one person is more important than the other.

## IV. The angels.

A. This includes both good and bad angels.

B. God is educating the angels through the church. (1 Peter 1)

C. God kept the mystery hidden so that Satan could not find it out.

V. Believers today.

A. The mystery is the heart of Paul's ministry.

B. God is not building denominations.

C. God is saving souls and building the church.

D. When we understand God's work, we can have boldness to move forward.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the mystery that Paul was a steward? Why is it called a mystery?

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2. How might the church behave differently if they were more aware that the angels are watching? Explain.

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3. How is the church a part of the mystery today? Explain.

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