

## Scripture Reading

### **Ephesians 3:1-11 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--  
<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,  
<sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.  
<sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,  
<sup>5</sup> which 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.  
<sup>6</sup> This 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.  
<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.  
<sup>8</sup> Although 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,  
<sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.  
<sup>10</sup> His 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,  
<sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. What is the church?

### **Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,  
<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

2. What is the manifold wisdom?

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-24 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
<sup>19</sup> For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."  
<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?  
<sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.  
<sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a

stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,<sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

3. Who are the rulers and authorities?

**Ephesians 6:11-12 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

4. How do we make this wisdom known?

**Matthew 5:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Titus 2:14 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.