"Let Me Qualify That"



#### Ephesians 3:1-12

"For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is [1] that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory."

- 1. (v. 1-3) Understanding that life lived for a cause within a call is better than living by ambition.
- 2. (v. 3-6) Live as though the loss of something is actually a gain of something more.
- 3. (v. 2-6) Living deeply means living intensely.

- 4. (v. 7) Sometimes we focus on what grace has produced in us as our qualification for powerful life and not just grace itself!
- 5. (v.8) Humility is not just saying "we are least" but believing all is Grace.
- 6. (v. 8) The more you understand the things of God the less you think of yourself!

- 7. (v. 8-9) Recognize all grace and power given if for a God task not a general blessing. God is all about SPECIFICITY!
- 8. (v. 10) Manifold-means: "many colored"
- 9. (v. 10) We must perpetually remember the awesomeness of the task before us. God is "educating" the angels by means of the church!

10. (v. 10) What are the evil angels learning from this education? That their leader, Satan, does not have any wisdom! Satan did not know all the results of the Cross or surely he would have altered his plan!

11. (v.11-12) It is imperative to correctly assess the hand of God in the small picture to understand the plan of God in the big picture!