



The Privilege Of Ministry

Series: Ephesians, #9

Ephesians 3:1-13

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Theme: **Every believer has the privilege of ministry.**

Ministry—the basic concepts.

1. Stewardship. (2; see also 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Colossians 1:25; 1 Peter 4:10)
2. Ministry. (7)
(see also Acts 20:22-24, 26:16; Romans 15:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:5; 2 Corinthians 4:1; Colossians 1:23, 25-27, 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:5)

Ministry—the essential foundation.

1. A gift of God's grace. (2, 7, 8)
2. A gift of God's power. (7; see also 3:20)
3. A part of God's eternal purpose. (11-12)
4. A call to hardship and suffering. (13)
(see also Acts 5:41; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 1:12, 2:3; 2 Timothy 2:9-10, 3:12, 4:5)

Ministry—the wonderful benefits.

1. For the benefit of others. (2, 4-6, 8, 9, 13)
2. For the benefit of angels. (10)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read 3:1-13. Paul starts a prayer for the Ephesians in 3:1 and then “digresses” in verse two, returning to the prayer in verse 14. He continues the truth that all people in Christ—Jews and Gentiles—are one and equal. Review 2:11-22 and compare it to 3:2-7. Summarize the points Paul makes. Why is this truth important for you, and everyone?

Tuesday. On Sunday we focused on the privilege of ministry for every believer. Check your notes (or memory) and summarize the meaning of the basic concepts of “stewardship” and “ministry.” Personalize this by writing out how this defines your place and role. How does your thinking and living line up with this truth?

Wednesday. Read 3:1-13. Check the outline on the four corners of the essential foundation for ministry. Do you recognize each of these as true for you? How and why does this foundation give you confidence? Are you building your ministry for God on each of these?

Thursday. Last Sunday we noted two wonderful benefits from ministry—benefit for others and for angels. Check the points and references. Are you aware of ways God has used you to benefit others this week? Be specific. What do you think the angels have learned so far this week from you as you have served God?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to move on to 3:14-21. Read this section in preparation for our time together.