

## Paul's Mission – Ephesians 3:7-21

Paul wrote Ephesians from prison in Rome. He was there for much of his ministry, and you can imagine that it was hard on him!

He suffered because of the envy other preachers had for him (Philippians 1:15-18), and when friends deserted him (2 Timothy 4:9-16), not to mention the fact that he was in *prison*. “Remember my chains,” he asked (Colossians 4:18).

But Paul knew his mission, to preach the gospel so that Christians would be able:

1. to enjoy the abundance of Christ's riches (Ephesians 3:8)
2. to show off the abundance of God's wisdom (Ephesians 3:10)

This kept Paul going. This was why his suffering was worth it.

## Questions

1. When might we lose heart because of suffering?
2. Why do you think we need God's help to realise understand how great these riches are (Ephesians 3:17-19)?
3. What are some of the riches we have in Christ? (Look especially in Ephesians 1:3-14 and 2:1-22.) Why do you think Paul describes them as an 'inheritance' (Ephesians 1:18)?
4. What is God's plan to make the abundance of his wisdom plain? (Ephesians 3:10) What is most surprising about this?
5. How can we show in our lives that the riches we have in Christ are more than sufficient for us? What about when we're struggling to make ends meet? When things are busy? When we suffer?