



“I have become” is literally “I have been **made**.”
The source of Paul’s ministry is God.
(Acts 26:9-18; Philippians 3:5-14)

Fundamentally, Paul saw himself as a **servant**.
1 Corinthians 3:5

- He is a servant of the **gospel** (1:19-23).
He was not **ruler** over the message, the message was ruler over him.
The gospel was and is **objective** truth, it existed outside and independent of Paul.
Galatians 1:8-9
- He is a servant of the **Church** (1:24-25).
Philippians 1:21-26

“by the commission God gave me” – means **stewardship**
That stewardship was to present the Word of God in its **fullness**.

“mystery”

- A mystery is merely something that was hidden in the past which is now **revealed** in the New Testament.
- These mysteries are not **discovered** by the genius of man, but are revealed by the will and act of God. (1:26, 27)

Part of the mystery here was that God **intended** to save the Gentiles from the very beginning.
Ephesians 2:13-22

The heart of the mystery Paul is talking about is “Christ **in you**, the hope of glory.”

- The Old Testament predicted the coming of the Messiah. But the idea that He would actually live in His redeemed Church – He would **dwell** in us – wasn’t revealed.
- All of **God** – in all of **me** – all the **time!**

Application:

- 1) Whether you have a vocational call to full time ministry or not, you need the perspective of the **plan** of God.
Proverbs 16:9, 19:21; Psalm 33:11, 37:23-24
- 2) No matter who you are as a Christian, the Spirit of God has given you certain **gifts** and called you to minister those gifts to the Body of Christ.
1 Peter 4:10-11
Wherever God has planned you to be, He has placed you there so you can **spread** the ministry of reconciliation.
- 3) **Scripture** is our only weapon against the incursion of culturally based values into our lives. Rightly heard, it fends off the danger that we will mistake our false, selfish hopes for divine truth and recast the **true** God into a false one of our own making.
- 4) The gospel message is “Christ **in you**” not “heaven **for you**.”
When Christ comes to live in a believer, His **presence** is the anchor of the promise of heaven – heaven is a byproduct.

NOTES
