

WHO AM I?

“THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL”

Community Group Curriculum for the week of November 16, 2014

Big Picture

In this passage Paul explains his calling and ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. This was to assure his Gentile readers that their share in the inheritance is authentic because of its divine origin. That is the “mystery” that Paul explains – the Gentile believers are now united with the Jewish believers in one body, the Church. We are all one in Christ Jesus!

Let's Explore Together!

1. Read the entire passage of Ephesians 3:1-13. In your group have someone describe in their own words what was just read. As a group address these questions:
 - What new thing did you discover in this passage that you did not know before?
 - What did you learn about God the Father? About Jesus?
 - What most impacted you about this passage?
 - Paul was clearly being used by God to accomplish His purposes. Is God working in your life today to accomplish what He has planned? Be specific about what He is doing in your life and share with the group.
2. In verse 1 Paul answers the question: “Who am I?” by saying he was a prisoner of Christ Jesus. Why is this significant? How does Paul's perspective make his circumstances tolerable? How would you describe yourself as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ?
3. Since Paul starts chapter 3 with “for this reason”, we do well to remind ourselves of the reason. What reasons can you find (there are at least five) in 2:11-22?
4. What had they heard concerning Paul and the administration of God's grace, mystery, and revelation that had been given to him (vv. 2-3; Galatians 1:11-17)?
5. What does Paul mean about this mystery not being made known in the past but is now revealed (vv. 4-5; Romans 16:25-27; Colossians 1:25-27)?

6. Although the mystery of the gospel in Christ has been fully revealed for nearly 2,000 years, why do so many (i.e. cults) still misunderstand and obscure the gospel?

7. Read verse 12. How is "boldness" in your faith revealed in your day-to-day life? Why are we sometimes timid in proclaiming our faith and/or living a Spirit-filled life? How do you overcome this? In that same verse we see that we have "access with confidence through our faith in him." Wow! Read Hebrews 4:14-16 as a final encouragement!

Prayer

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 prior to prayer. As you pray remember that you are found in Christ and spend time praying for your call and purpose in the world, and God working in and through you. Likewise, lift up others (be specific) in their calling and purpose in the world.

Final Thought

Our Lives Before and After Christ

Before

Dead because of sin
Under God's anger
Followed the ways of the world
God's enemies
Enslaved to Satan
Followed our evil thoughts and desires

After

Made alive with Christ
Shown God's mercy and given salvation
Stand for Christ and truth
God's children
Free in Christ to love, serve, and sit with Him
Raised up with Christ to glory

INTRODUCTION:

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:1-13

EXPOSITION:

1. The _____ (3:1-6)

a. Who it's for? _____ (3:1-2)

b. How it's given? _____ (3:3-5)

c. What it's about? _____ (3:6)

2. The _____ (3:7-13)

a. How it's done? _____ (3:7)

b. What it's about? _____ (3:8-9)

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a. How it's done? _____ (3:7)

b. What it's about? _____ (3:8-9)

c. Who it's through? _____ (3:10-13)

BOTTOM LINE:

APPLICATION:

c. Who it's through? _____ (3:10-13)

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APPLICATION: