

LESSON 6 - EPHESIANS 3:1-13

Over the centuries, we have discovered mysteries that boggle the mind—everything from black holes in the universe to the intricate workings of a single atom. A mystery remains a mystery until certain facts are revealed or discovered. Through the ages, God has kept His mystery hidden until the time when He decreed that it should be made known to all...the mystery of the Church! As we begin Ephesians 3, that's the message Paul unfolds for us.



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

1. As you begin this week, settle in to study this section by finding a quiet place to read Ephesians 3:1–13. If possible, try to read through this passage a few times, using different Bible translations to grasp a fuller understanding of what Paul is saying. Record what you initially understand as you pour over these verses:

Ephesians 3:1–7 ~

Ephesians 3:8–13 ~

2. Are there any key words or phrases you see in these verses? (A key word is usually repeated in a passage to build emphasis.) Write them here:
3. From this initial study, what do you think these verses teach you about God and His character?
 - a. Do these verses give us a reason for hope? If so, what is it?
4. Is there anything that is unclear or difficult for you to understand in this passage? If so, write it out here.

b. Why would the truth of this mystery have been difficult for Jewish believers to accept?

9. What three things are revealed about the mystery in verse 6?

- _____
- _____
- _____

CUTTING THE STONE



Is “ministry” something to be done only by a pastor or the church staff? What gifts has God given you? How are you using those gifts to minister to others and the church?

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are!

Teddy Roosevelt



USING A TROWEL

Read verses 8-13

10. How does Paul describe himself in verse 8?

a. What do you think this means?

11. Paul was specifically called to preach the gospel message to the Gentiles; how is the mystery of Christ now to be made known throughout the world?

“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”
1 Corinthians 11:1

12. What was God’s purpose in revealing this mystery to Paul (verses 8–10)?

13. In verse 10, Paul makes a reference to “principalities and powers in the heavenly places.” Who do you think this refers to?

14. From verses 10 and 11, what can we learn about God’s plan for the Church?

CUTTING THE STONE



The existence of the Church is a continual witness to the spiritual realm of God's amazing power, grace, and purpose. You may not be a pastor or evangelist, but God gives each of us opportunities to tell others about Jesus. He will provide the courage and ability when you make yourself available as His servant. Write out a prayer asking God to help you be available and obedient to His calling.

15. According to verse 12, what is our privilege through faith in Christ Jesus?

16. How could Paul's suffering encourage the Ephesians believers (verse 13)?
 - a. How can our suffering help others?

 - b. How can it glorify Christ?

17. In spite of the hardships experienced as a result of preaching the gospel, Paul still refers to his calling as a gift of grace. Look over your own life as a working Christian woman, perhaps a mom, or wife. What has God called you to do?

STONE QUARRY



What other attitudes does the Bible teach about approaching God in prayer? Using a concordance, discover the wonder of prayer and the access made available to us as believers. Include specific Scripture references in your answer.



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Recapping this section, Paul learned through experience that difficult times were opportunities to grow and experience more of God's grace and presence, rather than in times of tranquility. Suffering was a pathway to humility and usefulness. Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message. Read Ephesians 3:1–13.

1. Try to explain the meaning of these terms:
 - Dispensation
 - Grace
 - Mystery
 - Unsearchable riches of Christ

