

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: December 5, 2021

Series: Identity: Life in Christ (Ephesians)

Lesson Title: "Mystery Revealed" (Ephesians 3:1-13)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Everyone loves a mystery.
2. The Bible holds one of the greatest mysteries of all time.

PREFACE TO THE MYSTERY (3:1-4)

1. _____ of the mystery (3:1-3)

"For this reason, I Paul"

"the administration of God's grace"

2. _____ of the mystery (3:3, 4)

NOTE: "as I have already written briefly" ... see 2:11-22.

3. Review of the _____ of a mystery (3:5)

There are three components: A Biblical mystery . . .

1) was truth not revealed during the period of the _____ (3:5)

2) can be known only by _____ (3:5)

3) is revealed in the _____ (3:5).

For Discussion:

What part of the Bible tells us how to organize & conduct church ministry?

What benefits does the Old Testament provide for the church?

CONTENT OF THE MYSTERY (3:6)

During the New Testament period, God revealed to Paul & to others that the church would include Jews and Gentiles united in Christ.

1. Gentiles are heirs _____ with Israel.

2. Gentiles are members _____ of one body.
3. Gentiles are sharers _____ in the promise.

For Discussion:

1. *On a practical level, what are a few implications of equality in Christ regardless of cultural backgrounds?*
2. *Do you agree that unbelievers see Christians setting a good example of harmony with those of different cultures?*

MINISTER OF THE MYSTERY (3:7-9)

In verses 7-9 Paul identified himself as the minister of the mystery, listing his character, qualifications, and task.

1. Paul's Attitude (vss. 7-8a)
 - A. _____ as a "minister," a servant of the Lord.
 - B. _____ on God.
2. Paul's Actions (vss. 8b-9)
 - A. "To preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ"
Question: What are some of the "unsearchable riches of Christ"?
 - B. "To make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery"

REASONS FOR THE MYSTERY (3:10-13)

1. To _____ a _____ (vss. 10, 11)
God is using the church as an object lesson to teach the angels about His manifold wisdom. Again, the mystery was not an afterthought; it was the eternal plan God conceived and fulfilled in His Son (3:11).
2. To _____ _____ (vss. 12, 13)
 - A. Bold _____.
 - B. Bold _____.
 - C. The hardships Paul faced were for "your glory" (vs. 13).

For Discussion:

What can we do to spread the gospel around the globe?