

Ephesians 3:1-13
Class Notes - 10/11/23

Major theme in this passage is "the mystery of christ" is a grace - not a mystery to be solved but something that is revealed in order to receive.

Grace - v. 2, 7, 8 Mystery - v. 3, 4, 9

Paul's Identity in Jesus Christ
(it can be ours too!)

1. Paul was a prisoner of _____ - 3:1

- When I think about what....? - (2:22) _____
- Historically, Paul is actually a literal prisoner in _____
- Theologically, Paul was a _____ of the _____ of Jesus

****Can you say that of yourself? That you have been captivated by the grace of Jesus? Hook/line/sinker?**

Grace made Paul a prisoner - example to us _____

2. Paul was a steward - 3:2-5

- What is the mystery now revealed to the Gentiles?

*****What have you been made a steward of? What grace has God given to you to pass on?**

Grace made Paul a steward -example to us _____

3. Paul was a minister - 3:6-7, 10

While purpose and plan are both important, they serve different functions.
God's Purpose (3:10) - One Body. One Humanity. One Church. Together.
To display his wisdom to all the unseen rulers and authorities.

A purpose provides the guiding vision and inspiration.

God's Plan (3:6) - Jesus - Good News

A plan provides the practical steps for how to achieve it.

Because of God's Purpose and Plan, Gentiles are now:

1. _____ together with the Jews -they share the same _____
2. _____ together of _____
3. _____ in the promise of _____ because of Jesus

What are the prerequisites for serving Christ?

1. God's _____ v. 9
2. A humble recognition of God's _____ v. 8
3. The blessing of God's _____ v. 7
4. An _____ of the blessings, wealth and gifts to be obtained in Christ (which are beyond human imagination!)

**Do you consider yourself a minister?

Grace made Paul a minister - example to us: _____

4. Paul was the Least - 3:8-9

-God uses things that are small in his upside down kingdom

** How has grace healed you? What areas of your life do you need to become small in order to throw yourself on grace?

Grace made Paul the least - example to us _____

3:10-12

Because of God's good purpose and plan of Jesus we can come into God's _____ with _____ and _____!

5. Paul was a Sufferer - 3:13

**Where or how are you "suffering" for Jesus?

Grace made Paul a sufferer - example for us _____

_____ Thought questions for next week: _____

1. Why do you think Paul prayed on his knees?
2. There are depths and dimensions of the love of God that are impossible to experience without regularly surrounding ourselves with other followers of Jesus who are not like us. Identify one way that you can live this out practically in your life.
3. Nearly every phrase in Ephesians 3:14-21 picks up a key image or word from earlier in the letter. What are some of those key phrases?