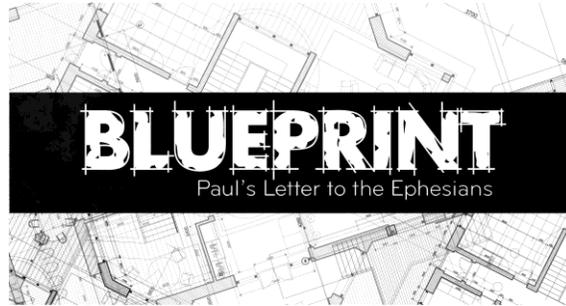


STUDY GUIDE 5

EPHESIANS 3:1-13



The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed through Paul

As you start this study, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what God has said through Paul.

DAY 1

Read the paragraph 3 times.

1. In verse 1 “For this reason” are connecting words indicating that what Paul is now going to write is based on what he has, particularly in chapter 2, said about the Jews and Gentiles. Read Ephesians chapter 2 to refresh your memory.
2. Paul calls himself “the prisoner of Christ Jesus”. If you recall from the Historical Background material, Paul was in prison in Rome. He was actually in house arrest. Read Acts 28:16, 17, 23 and 30-31. Write what you learn about house arrest.

TO DIG DEEPER: Paul is in prison “for the sake of you Gentiles”. The story of how this imprisonment started in Jerusalem and how it ended in Rome is recorded in Acts 21:17-Acts 28:16. Read these passages. How many stops did Paul have on the way to Rome? Who were the people involved in the process? Why was he taken to Rome and not tried in Jerusalem?

DAY 2

1. In verse 2 Paul refers to his ministry to the Ephesians. See also Colossians 1:25 and Galatians 2:7. Who gave Paul this ministry? What was the ministry?
2. In verses 3-6 Paul again talks about the “mystery of Christ”,
To whom was the mystery made known? (vs.3 & 5)
How was it made known? (vs. 3 & 5)
To whom was it not made known? (vs. 5)
Why was it not made known? (vs. 9)
What is the mystery? (vs. 6)

3. Read Romans 16: 25-26 – define “mystery” as Paul uses it.

See Isaiah 49:6 – what did the Old Testament prophets foretell? Now read Ephesians 3:6 – what new information is added to what the prophets foretold?

NOTE: In verse 6 the word “together” is used 3 times indicating the significance of this new revelation.

DAY 3

1. In verses 7 & 8 Paul shares his view of his ministry. Who gave Paul this gift of grace? (vs.7)
How was it given? (vs.7)
2. What does Paul think of himself according to verse 7? According to verse 8? What kind of person does Paul seem to you from these verses?
3. In verses 8 & 9 what two things was Paul to do with this gift of grace?

TO DIG DEEPER: The word “administration” is used in verses 2 and 9 in the NIV translation. If you have other Bible translations i.e. Revised Standard Version, King James Version, American Standard Version, etc., look up verses 2 and 9. What word is used in place of “administration”? Explain how this helps you understand the verses better.

DAY 4

1. In verse 9 it says that in the past this “mystery” was kept hidden by God. What does verses 10 and 11 say is God’s intent now? Through what will He do this? To whom will He make this known? Where are they? In accordance with what? How was this to be accomplished?
2. The “rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” are also noted in Ephesians 1:20-21; 2:2; and 6:12. See also 1 Peter 1:12 and Job 1-2:6. What affect does the Christian individually and collectively as the church have on these beings?

DAY 5

1. Read verse 12. In whom may we approach God? How may we approach God?
2. Look up these cross references for verse 12: Hebrews 4:16; 10:19, 35; 1 John 2:28; 3:21 and 4:17. Write down by each verse what it says about how we can or even who can approach God?
3. One of the tenants of our faith statement at CCPC is that we believe in the priesthood of all believers. Based on the verses you just read, explain what you understand this to mean. How does this make a difference in your prayer life?

DAY 6

In verse 13 Paul asks the readers of Ephesians not to be discouraged that he is suffering because he preached the gospel to them. The result was that they believed in Christ. As seen in previous verses it was his mission, his calling and he was willing to face whatever the consequence.

APPLICATION:

Today, what Paul did is called Evangelism. Some people are called to a full time ministry of Evangelism. They preach the gospel everywhere. We, too, are called to “evangelize” – share the gospel or good news everywhere we are. See Matthew 28:18-20. What are some negative connotations of “evangelism”? What are some positive connotations of “evangelism”? How can you share the gospel with others? What hinders you from sharing the “good news”?