



# REVEALED

The Mystery of Christ in Ephesians

**Ephesians 3:1-13**

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# WHEN THE RESURRECTION CHURCH FACES A CONUNDRUM!

(LIVING IN THE “ALREADY” WHEN  
“NOT YET” IS STARING YOU IN THE FACE)

*For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. – Ephesians 3:1-13 (NIV)*

## The Church...

1. ...Lives By Counterintuitive Truth

2. ...Embraces A Shared Life

### 3. ...Is God's Pilot Episode

### 4. ...Defeats Discouragement

#### HOW TO RE-PURPOSE SUFFERING

- REALIZE IT IS NEVER FOR NOTHING
- SEE IT AS CHRIST'S OPPORTUNITY
- KNOW IT WILL ACCOMPLISH GLORY

#### I Will Live The Mystery by...

- Memorizing *Ephesians 3:12*
- Making the Church more central to my life.
- Repurposing suffering through grace & for the glory of God.
- Accepting the unsearchable riches of Christ for the first time.

# WALK THE TALK

## A Growth Group Guide

1. Why do mystery stories, either in a book or on the TV, capture our attention so much? How is the “mystery of Christ” different? How is the idea of “a counterintuitive truth revealed” helpful to you in capturing its importance?
2. How did someone reach out to you the way Paul reached out to the Gentiles with the Gospel?
3. Why do you think so many Christians seem to view Church as optional to their lives instead of central to life? How should Ephesians 3:9-10 change that way of thinking?
4. How often do you take advantage of the wonderful benefit you have been given in Ephesians 3:12?
5. How would you compare Paul’s passion to share the mystery of Christ with your own passion to share the Gospel?
6. What do you think you specifically need to do this week to start “living the mystery of Christ” out?