

# Small Group Notes

Sermon: 5 February 2023



## EPHESIANS

# Glorious Church

## Ephesians 3:1-13

# SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:1-13

## OVERVIEW

Paul goes on what commentators call an 'inspired tangent' in this section of scripture. He is so caught up in the good news that he can't help but dig a little deeper. And what we find is that his digging takes him towards the Church. Many of us have our view of Church shaped by personal experience and what culture has to say about her, but we want to grow at being those who are shaped by the word of God.

We see in this passage Paul draw out three truths about the Church:

### **1. She is the mystery of God revealed (v1-6).**

The Church is the mystery of the ages that has now been revealed. It is a mystery worth giving our lives for, one that draws us into loving and serving others, and one that God has revealed Himself. Paul had this mystery revealed to him, but now all are able to have insight into it because of Jesus. The mystery is the Church! The gentiles are "fellow heirs with the Jews, members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Jesus through the gospel" (verse 6).

### **2. She is the wisdom of God revealed (v7-**

**10).** Paul shows us that the Church is God's manifold wisdom revealed. It's not as the world would expect; His wisdom doesn't come with impressive or persuasive words, but came "according to the gift of God's grace" and by "the working of his power" (verse 7). In fact, His wisdom is foolishness to this world, as He used the "very least of all the saints" (verse 8) to reveal His wisdom. He did this by preaching,

so the ways and means this wisdom is revealed are counter to the world's way. But the Church is God's manifold wisdom revealed, which has been hidden throughout the ages and is now made known to the rulers and authorities of the heavenly places (verse 10).

**3. She is the hope of God revealed.** Finally, Paul shows us that through the Church the hope we have in God is revealed to one another and the world. We are drawn to the Lord's "eternal purposes" (verse 11), seeing that the Church was part of God's plans before time began! Through the Church revealing God's mystery and wisdom, we "have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him" (verse 12) and are able to "not lose heart" (verse 13) as we see the beauty of the Church revealing the beauty and hope of our God.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What struggles do you face in believing what the scriptures say about church?
2. What aspect of church life has the Lord been encouraging and challenging you in lately?
3. How can we help one another to walk in the hope of God revealed in this passage?