



EPHESIANS 3:1-6
The Joy of Knowing Christ and Making Him Known
Eric Smith
March 19, 2023

Sermon Summary

Summary: God has chosen His messengers throughout history (because it is HIStory), to communicate His truth to all people and from time to time to reveal the Mysteries of God. Paul makes this very clear in Romans 10, “But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!’ 16 But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.” The messenger whom the Lord sent to the Gentiles is Paul and he gives it to the Ephesians straight in today’s Scripture passage. As you read and study, ponder this question, “To whom have you been sent as messenger to deliver the good news that Jesus has come to save them?”

Scripture Overview: Paul shifts the focus from the new relationship the Gentile believers have in Christ to his role as messenger. He explains with passion and clarity his assignment as messenger of the Mystery of Christ. It is all part of God’s plan to bring as many people into His family as will come. While the Jews believed for many generations that they were the only heirs, God has now revealed to Paul that the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people! This truth has been a mystery and now is revealed for all to know!

Diving Into The Message

The Joy of Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

Ephesians 3:1-6

When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles . . . 2 assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. 3 As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. 4 As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. 5 God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. 6 And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. 7 By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. NLT

The Joy of Extending God's Grace

The Joy of God's Riches and Blessings

The Joy of Serving Christ by Spreading the Good News

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Questions from the Scripture

1. What have you learned about Paul in this passage?
2. Why would Paul consider himself a prisoner of Christ when in reality he was a prisoner of Nero?
3. What does it mean to be a faithful steward of God's grace and His mysteries? (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)
4. Why was the mystery not made known in previous generations?
5. What was this mystery that was made known to Paul through special revelation (v. 6)?
6. Why is the mystery revealed to Paul and in this letter to the Ephesians?
7. What difference does it make to us that the mystery is "solved?"

Life Application Questions

1. How has your life been impacted by the mystery of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. What are you to do with the revealed mystery? What difference does it make in your day to day life?
3. What role do followers of Jesus have in 2023 to "steward" the mysteries of the Gospel as revealed in Scripture? What is your role? To whom have you been sent?