

## The Mystery of Christ

### Opening Announcements

### Opening Prayer

Q: Do you like a good "mystery"? Why? What is it about a "mystery" that's engaging and fulfilling?

Q: What do you call it when you solve a mystery?

### **Table Time....**

**READ: Ephesians 3:1-6** "For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Q: Why is Paul a "prisoner"? (Hint...See: Acts 16:16-24)

Q: According to verse 3 "how" was the "mystery" made known to Paul?

Q: How is God made "known" to us?

Q: According to verse 5, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in revelation?

Q: According to verse 6, WHAT IS the "mystery"?

Q: Why is THAT important?

**READ: Ephesians 3:7-13** "Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence

through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory."

Q: According to verse 7, WHAT is the "gospel"?

Q: According to verse 8, what was given to Paul to proclaim?

Q: According to verse 9-10, what did God want to "bring to light"?

Q: According to verse 12, "what" do we have? What does "faith" access?

Q: According to verse 13, WHY should we NOT lose heart?

**READ: Ephesians 3:14-19** "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Q: In verse 17, what's the reason we pray for strength and power through His Spirit in our inner being"?

Q: What's beautiful and special about verse 18-19?

Q: How is THAT, MORE?

**READ: Ephesians 3:20-21** "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Q: According to these verses, WHAT is God about to do?

Q: How have you seen God do this in YOUR life?