

Dear Church (Part 6)

[Eph. 3:1-13]

June 04, 2017

HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- The Apostle Paul makes several bold claims in the opening statements of chapter three (Ephesians 3:1-5). He is a prisoner for preaching the Gospel to the gentiles. "God gave him a special ministry..." "God himself revealed the mystery of His secret plan" to reunite humankind. God has revealed His plan through the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - What do you think about these claims of Paul?
 - Do you think these claims have any connection to the mission and ministry of believers today? Please explain your answer.
- We heard, in our teaching last week, about God's plan to unify all the peoples of the world. In verse six, Paul emphasizes again this marvelous mystery revealed. What are the implications of this revelation to you? How does it impact you specifically? What do you think it means in terms of our "local" mission? What do you think it means in terms of our "global" mission?
- Paul seems to be genuinely delighted (Eph. 3:7-9) with the realization that he has the privilege of sharing the message of grace through the gospel of Jesus Christ. In what ways might you share the same responsibilities of Paul in this mission? Can you be specific in how you might share the message of grace through the gospel in your daily life? Are there ways of sharing the gospel "without words?" Can you offer examples, if "yes?"
- Why do you think Paul refers to himself as "the least of all God's people" (verse eight)? If he is the least, and possibly the most lacking in credibility, how might that reinforce the importance of anyone today to "live out and proclaim" the gospel?
- Paul explains again, the mystery of the Church and unification of all humanity through it (verses 9-11). How do you think the Church is fulfilling this mission and making known this mystery to the world today? How might we become more effective in advancing the mission?
- As we begin this sixth week of our study, is there a particular week or verse that has had significant impact with you? Are there changes and/or redirection taking place with your life? Can you be specific to testify? Have you considered writing a testimony email to the pastor?