

THE MYSTERY



THE MYSTERY:

- I love a good mystery
- Summary
- Point: To unfold the mystery of God's saving work in Christ.

THE MYSTERY:

- Eph 3: If, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the

THE MYSTERY:

- Eph 3: If, “mystery of Christ, 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. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

THE MYSTERY:

- **The content of the mystery:** Jesus Christ is the mystery. Through Christ, God has created a people for Himself, uniting both Jews & Gentiles. All who have faith in Christ become a part of this new community & have direct & immediate access to the Father. This new plan, which Paul calls a 'mystery,' reflects the infinite wisdom of God.

THE MYSTERY:

- **The content of the mystery:**
- The mystery of Jesus coming for us
- The mystery of Paul (Damascus Road; 2 parts of Paul's life)
- Mystery of a new humanity, the church – one people, one body, sharers in the promise in Christ. (mystery of grace – “I never thought God would use you.”)

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery** – Eph 3:7f, “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given to me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make known to everyone the administration of this mystery,

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery** – Eph 3:7f, “which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 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, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery** – Eph 3:7f, “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are for your glory.”

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery** –
- Paul outlines 3 purposes of this mystery: *First, to proclaim the gospel so no should perish* – the power of the gospel to redeem lives. And God chose Paul, ‘the least of all the Lord’s people,’ to be this instrument of grace. No one is irredeemable, no one is irreparable, no one is beyond God’s saving hand. (politicians – Colson; abusers, addicts, adulterers, liars, thieves, fearful...)

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery** –
- *Second, to illumine those who believe* – (v. 9, “to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery”) “Revelation” like Eph 1:18f. Paul preaches the gospel to those who are far away from God, and then helps those who believe to understand the implications of the gospel for their lives. (forgiveness – confessing the same past sin vs release)

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery –**
- *Third, to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the spirit realm – (v. 10, “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”)*

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery -**
- *Third, to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the spirit realm. How? (1) Through people being added to the household. Every time someone is saved from sin, Satan sees the wisdom of Jesus' saving work. Your life change is Satan's defeat, and Jesus' glory.*

THE MYSTERY:

- **Purpose of the mystery –**
- *Third, to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the spirit realm. How? (2) When power is made perfect in weakness. (weakness wins – through death, Christ triumphs; through persecution the church thrives; through weakness power is displayed) (suffering, God redeems)*

THE MYSTERY:

- *Third, to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the spirit realm.* V. 12-13, “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are for your glory.” Don’t lose heart – suffering for them – not atonement.

THE MYSTERY:

- *Third, to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the spirit realm. (Jewish idea – allotted amount of suffering before the end of the age; Mt 24:14) (prison 3-4 years) God redeems. Fear no evil – God is wiser than the powers of evil; we have authority through faith & submission to the King. We can overcome.*

THE MYSTERY:

- *Third, to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the spirit realm.*
- God calls unlikely people into his family through the unexpected work of Christ to use them in unsuspecting ways to advance His Kingdom. (Paul)(Corrie ten Boom)
(Ron's student – Seth)