

Ephesians

Week 07 – Mystery Revealed

Transition: Last week we focused on a topic that is in the Old Testament scriptures but was not clearly understood until God revealed more implications for humanity after Jesus died, rose back to life, and ascended to heaven. Specifically, Paul informs/reminds the church that both Jews and Gentiles (who formerly were hostile to one another) are united together in one body through their new position in Christ.

Context: This week Paul reveals even more of the mystery about the Jews and the Gentiles being unified into one body (group) because of and through Jesus Christ. Specifically, he reveals that the Church is the revelation of God's manifold wisdom. This is a grandiose statement and worthy of much further consideration!

Opening Questions:

- What is something for which you would willingly suffer, and why for that thing in particular? What is something that you have suffered for? What influenced you to make that choice?
- What comes to mind when you think of the purpose of the Church?

Scripture/Storying: Ephesians 3:1-13

Discipleship Questions:

- How do you sum up Paul's overarching point in this passage? What impact is he thinking it will have on the church?
- What does Paul say about himself in these verses? How does this strengthen his encouragement to them? When has someone else's faith encouraged you to be strong in the Lord? Share the story. How did it strengthen you?
- What is the "mystery hidden for ages in God?" How was it hidden? How was it revealed? Why does God "hide" some things?
- Who are "the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places?" Why does God want them to see His wisdom revealed through the church?
- In what ways is the "manifold wisdom of God" made known through the church? How does this reality impact you personally?
- Why would the Christians in Ephesus lose heart because of Paul's imprisonment? What are some inappropriate responses when we see a brother/sister in Christ suffering for His sake? What are some appropriate responses?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to today's discussion?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Bridges International (CRU Ministries), a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray for the students to have hearts that are open to seeking the truth and that we may be able to build trusting relationships with them.