

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – The Shocking Mystery – Ephesians 3:1-13

Although he has already hinted at it in earlier portions of his letter to the Ephesians, in these verses, the apostle Paul speaks clearly about the “mystery of the gospel.” The mystery of the gospel is the church. No one—neither Jew nor Gentile—saw it coming. Today we will reflect more on “this mystery” and what it means for you and me to be a critical part of it.

As a way of warming up, take a moment to share what comes to mind when you hear the word “mystery?” Maybe a movie, a book, an escape room, etc.

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

1. Paul is writing this letter from prison. Why does he say that he is in prison for the “sake of you Gentiles?” (See Acts 22:21-22).
2. Note the verses in which the word “mystery” is used in verses Ephesians 3:1-13. (See also Eph. 1:8-10). What different thing do we learn about “the mystery” of the gospel from these verses?
3. While we understand ‘mystery’ differently, in the NT the word “mystery” means something once hidden has now been made clear. What has the mystery of the gospel now made clear?” How did this mystery surprise the Jews? the Gentiles? Did it surprise you?
4. One of the things Doug did not talk about Sunday was verse 8 “to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.” (See also Ephesians 1:18, 3:16). What are the “unfathomable” riches of Christ? What difference do they make in your everyday life?
5. What evidence do you have in chapters 1-3 that the church is at the center of God’s plan for history? How does this change the way you might think about historical events? How might this change the way you think about the church itself?
6. Doug maintained that the “mystery of the gospel” has something to say about the church’s mission. Let’s drill down on this a little, and focus on your ‘CIRCLE?” Take the time to share what your next step will be in relationship to one person on your card. Take some time to pray for each other’s next step.