


Week of September 3 - The Multi-Faceted Wisdom of God Small Group Lesson 7

## Connect

Is it appropriate as a parent to withhold information from your children? Why or why not? Would there be a time when they may be "ready"? When would that possibly be? Describe some scenarios or experiences, if possible.

## Verses - Ephesians 3:1-13 (CSB)

[1] For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
[2] assuming you have heard about the administration of God's grace that he gave me for you. [3] The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above. [4] By reading this you are able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. [5] This was not made known to people in other generations as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
[6] The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. [7] I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.

[8] This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, [9] and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. [10] This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. [11] This is according to his eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. [12] In him we have boldness and confident access through faith in him. [13] So, then, I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory.

## Study

1. What is the "mystery of Christ" Paul is describing? Why was it so? (vv. 4-7)
   a. How did Paul come to know the mystery? (vv. 3, 4, 7)
   b. What is being revealed differently than before (v.5, 7; Romans 9:6-8)?

2. What made it so revolutionary to the early Jewish Christians that the Gentiles would be included? (Ephesians 2:12; Acts 15:7-9, 13-14)
   a. What did Paul plan to do with the revelation? Why? (Philippians 1:21, 3:7-8)

**APPLY:** As written, the church is intended by God, as part of his eternal purpose accomplished in Christ, to reveal his multi-faceted (rich variety) wisdom.

How can this be accomplished through the church?

**DISCUSS:** How much has Paul suffered for Jesus Christ? How does this instruct us what to do and how to handle the possibility of suffering? Notice, not everyone in the churches did as he did. Why did they not?

## Share

In what ways are your experiences similar to those of the Apostle Paul? (vv.8, 13) Has God ever given you the grace and calling to share the gospel (to non-believers)? Have you ever suffered affliction as a result?

## Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that this deep insight into the mystery of God's eternal purpose accomplished by Christ, will give us boldness and confidence and faith, so that we can be used by God to share these insights with others.
- Pray He will help us display God's multi-faceted wisdom through the church to all, even the rulers and authorities in the heavens.