

STUDYING THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 5 - Paul the Preacher to the Gentiles - Ephesians 3:1-13

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

EPH 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--

EPH 3:2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, [3] that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. [4] In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5] which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. [6] This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

EPH 3:7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. [8] Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. [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, [11] according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. [12] In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. [13] I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 5 - Paul the Preacher to the Gentiles - Ephesians 3:1-13

50. Why did Paul go to prison? (3:1)
51. How familiar was Paul with the company of believers at Ephesus? (3:2)
52. What would the Ephesians have heard about Paul? (3:2-3)
53. To what mystery did Paul refer? (3:2-3)
54. How did Paul receive insight into the mystery of Christ? (3:4-5)
55. Who revealed the mystery of Christ to Paul? (3:5)

56. When was the mystery of Christ disclosed? (3:5)
57. How did Paul reveal the mystery of Christ? (3:6)
58. How was Paul enabled to be a servant? (3:7)
59. What was Paul's attitude to his call? (3:8)
60. What was Paul called to disclose? (3:9)
61. Through what medium was God's wisdom communicated? (3:10)
62. How did God accomplish His plan? (3:11)
63. In light of God's work, how may believers approach Him? (3:11-12)
64. Why were Paul's sufferings the glory of the Ephesians? (3:13)

Lesson 6 - A Prayer for the Ephesians - Ephesians 3:14-21

EPH 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, [15] from whom his whole family* in heaven and on earth derives its name. [16] I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, [18] may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, [19] and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

EPH 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 6 - A Prayer for the Ephesians - Ephesians 3:14-21

65. When Paul prayed, what posture did he assume? (3:14)
66. To whom is God the Father? (3:14-15)
67. What did Paul request of the Father? (3:16)
68. Through whom would the Ephesians be empowered? (3:16)
69. How would Christ dwell in the believers' hearts? (3:17)

70. Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be rooted and established in love? (3:17-19)
71. What did Paul want the Ephesians to grasp? (3:18)
72. What does the love of Christ surpass? (3:19)
73. How did Paul close his prayer? (3:20-21)
74. How did Paul's doxology serve as a fitting conclusion to the doctrine he had presented in the first three chapters of this letter? (3:20-21)