

Ephesians Chapter 3

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Read Ephesians, Chapter 3 through carefully. Underline the words and phrases that are meaningful to you. At the beginning of this chapter Paul refers to himself as a “prisoner for the Lord”. Read Acts 21:27-22:22 to discover why Paul was in prison.

1. Chapter three begins with the words “for this reason”. Then Paul interrupts himself for a few moments to explain something before he continues what he was going to say “for this reason” (see verse 14). To what reason is Paul referring? (You will need to look back to previous chapters to answer this.)

2. Who revealed the “mystery” to Paul, the Apostles and Prophets, and the Gentiles as provided here in this third chapter of Ephesians? (vs. 2-5)

3. What are the three aspects of the mystery as seen in verse 6? What word is repeated here?

This mystery is that through the Gospel the Gentiles are...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The term mystery here doesn't mean something that isn't understood. It means a truth known only by divine revelation, in this case the age old plan of God that is now being actively carried out and revealed by God stage by stage. Here Paul is showing the Gentiles that their being included in the salvation Christ offers was not an afterthought. One of the great mysteries that God reveals in the New Testament is the mystery of the church. That in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28) One of the great realities of life in Christ is that God can take all sorts of people and make them one in the Body of Christ, the church.

4. In what ways does Paul refer to himself in this chapter?

>1. (vs. 1)

>2. (vs. 7)

>3. (vs. 8)

5. Verses 14-21 are a prayer that Paul prays for the believers in Ephesus, and for all believers everywhere. What is the main focus of this prayer?

6. In his prayer Paul makes four main requests. Either highlight them in your Bible or write them down here.

Request #1 (vs. 16-17a):

What kind of power do you receive by Christ dwelling in your heart?

Request #2 (vs. 17b):

What does the image of being “rooted and established in love” mean to you?

Request #3 (vs. 18-19a):

What are the 2 things Paul wants us to grasp in regard to Christ’s love?

Request #4 (vs. 19b):

What do you suppose the fullness of God would look like in a person’s life?

7. What does it mean for Christ to “dwell in our hearts”?

8. Where do you need the power of God to work in your life right now?

9. If Paul was praying this prayer expressly for you, what changes in you expect or hope would take place? I would be...