

4. How does it make you feel to know, as a member of the Church, that Jesus purchased with His own blood and that you are “on display”—being watched and observed by unseen heavenly beings or “rulers” in the cosmic realm as Paul describes it in Ephesians 3:10?

5. Why do you think Paul was so good at putting his suffering into perspective? (C.f. Ephesians 3:13; Philippians 1:7, 12-14.)

6. Consider our last two lessons (Lessons 10 and 11 in our series). How has your view of the Church been changed?

Do you have a deeper appreciation for the Church? In what ways?

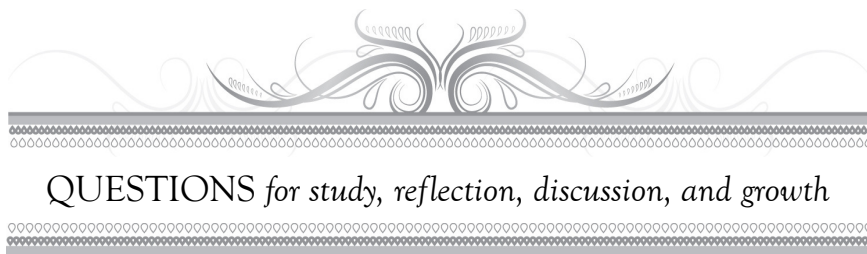
- I. B. 1. Received. 2. Founder, inventor. C. 1. Old Testament. 2. Apostles, prophets, Holy Spirit.
II. A. 1. Blessed. 3. Jews, replace. B. Together, one.
III. A. 1. Grace, power.
IV. B. Centerpiece, relationship.



Lesson 11: THE CHURCH: A MYSTERY REVEALED

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 3:1-13 | February 7-8, 2009

- I. The Mystery Unfolds (Ephesians 3:2-5).
- A. As the stewardship of God’s grace (Ephesians 3:2).
 - B. As a revelation made known to Paul (Ephesians 3:3-4).
 - 1. Paul _____ this revelation from God.
 - 2. Paul was not the _____ of the church or the _____ of Christianity!
 - 3. Paul “demystified” the mystery!
 - C. At the time God appointed (Ephesians 3:5).
 - 1. This mystery was not known in _____ times.
 - 2. It was made known to the New Testament _____ and _____ by the _____.
- II. The Mystery Made Known (Ephesians 3:6).
- A. What is the Mystery?
 - 1. It is not that Gentiles would be _____ (Genesis 12:3; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14).



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

Read Ephesians 3:1-13; Romans 16:25-27; Acts 15:1-11.

1. Why does Paul describe the Church as a mystery now unveiled?

How did Paul discover this mystery?

Think about the fact that the Church was a “secret” hidden in God for many generations. How does this truth give you perspective on God’s purposes throughout history?

2. How would you respond to someone who claimed that Paul “hijacked” the message of Jesus, and that Jesus and Paul give contradictory messages?

Did Paul speak of the cross? Did Jesus?

What other similarities do we find between the teaching of Jesus and the teaching of Paul?

3. How do we know that the Church has not replaced Israel? Who are the true members of the Church right now?

- 2. It is not that Gentiles would be included in God’s plan and be saved (1 Kings 8:41-43; Psalm 67:2; Isaiah 49:6; John 10:16).
- 3. It is not that Gentiles would become _____ or that the Church would _____ Israel (Isaiah 56:3-7; Acts 3:19-21; Acts 15:16-17; Romans 11:1, 23-24, 29).

B. The mystery is that believing Jews and Gentiles are united _____ as _____ in Jesus Christ through the gospel.

III. The Minister of the Mystery (Ephesians 3:7-10).

A. What qualified Paul to be the minister of the mystery?

- 1. God’s amazing _____ and _____.
- 2. Paul’s humble self-assessment.

B. What did Paul share in his ministry?

- 1. The unfathomable riches of Christ.
- 2. The marvelous plan of God.

IV. The Purpose in Sharing the Mystery.

A. To display the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10).

- 1. Made known through the church!
- 2. To the unseen heavenly realms!

B. To show how Jesus Christ is the _____ of God’s plan to bring us into _____ with Himself. (Ephesians 3:11-12).

V. The Persecution in Sharing the Mystery (Ephesians 3:13).

A. Suffering for the saints.

B. Eyes on the prize.