

Sermon

Notes

The Mystery Made Known

Bible Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

◆ Overview

It seems that no matter what medium, whether movie, book, or board game, we enjoy mysteries. Why? Maybe because we want to be captured in a thought-provoking, rabbit-chasing scenario that tests our ability to become a Sherlock Holmes. Or, maybe it is because we know it is going to be an exciting adventure seeking who committed the crime.

Paul speaks of a mystery in Ephesians 3, but this mystery has been made known to us.

◆ In Depth

When we get a chance to relax, how do you spend your time? Do you take a nap, watch a movie, or read a book? If you watch a movie or read a book, what genre do you choose? It seems that as a culture, we enjoy mysteries.

We want to solve the mystery before the final chapter. We need to know who did it. Because of our appreciation of mysteries, we have movies, TV shows, books, and even board games all relating to mysteries.

There is a mystery in the Bible, but Paul explains in Ephesians 3 that the mystery has been made known to us.

Let's examine 4 points:

1. The Minister of the Mystery (v. 1)

◆ The Minister's Mistreatment (v. 1, 13)

Notice in verse 1, Paul claims he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ. This is because of two things: 1) Paul's Call to Ministry and 2) the Lord's Control of Paul's Life.

Also notice in verse 13, Paul claims that he has faced tribulations for the Ephesians believers.

◆ The Minister's Mission (v. 1-4, 9)

Paul describes his mission in verse 2: he has become a steward of the grace for the Ephesians.

Paul also explains in verse 9, he is to make all men see the promise that has been given to him.

◆ The Minister's Meekness (v. 7-8)

See two phrases in verse 7 and 8:

1) "according to the gift of the grace of God"
 2) "who am less than the least of all saints."
 Paul realizes that regardless of his efforts, he is a nobody who has been given the power of God, which is the only way he could ever become a faithful minister and do the will of the one who called him.

2. The Moments of the Mystery (v. 5)

◇ **The Concealed Mystery (v. 5)**

In the Old Testament, the mystery was concealed. It was hidden from our understanding.

◇ **The Revealed Mystery (v. 5)**

In the New Testament, however, the mystery has been revealed to us so we may know it.

3. The Makeup of the Mystery (v. 6)

◇ **Gentiles are Fellowheirs (v. 6)**

Before Jesus, the approach to the Lord was through Judaism. But now, Gentiles are able to be saved through Jesus--not religion.

◇ **Gentiles are of One Body (v. 6)**

We are now one body with the Jews. No longer must we approach God through a nation or people. We can approach God regardless of Jew or Gentile descent.

◇ **Gentiles Partake of His Promise (v. 6)**

God's promise has always been the salvation and dwelling of eternity for believers. Because of Jesus, we may receive this promise and partake of it through the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The Motive of the Mystery (v. 10-12)

◇ **Experienced through the Church (v. 10-11)**

God's purpose in salvation is to show his love and his wisdom. He does this through the church.

◇ **Exhibited in Heavenly Places (v. 11)**

The heavens are amazed at what Christ has done for the church and what Christ is doing in and through the church.

So, in light of the mystery, what does that mean for us?

Because the mystery has been revealed, we have:

Boldness (v. 12)

Access (v. 12)

◇ **Respond**

The mystery has been revealed. We may have access and be fellowheirs and partake of His promise.

Has the blood of Jesus been applied to your life?
Are you a partaker of His promise?



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