

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2019 Ephesians 1:1-14..... Rejoice
- 2) 08 Sept Ephesians 1:15-23..... Remembered
- 3) 15 Sept Ephesians 2:1-10..... Resurrected
- 4) 22 Sept Ephesians 2:11-22..... Reconciled
- 5) **29 Sept..... Ephesians 3:1-13..... Revealed**
- 6) 06 Oct Ephesians 3:14-21..... Residence
- 7) 13 Oct Ephesians 4:1-10..... Walking Together
- 8) 20 Oct Ephesians 4:11-16..... Walking Forward
- 9) 27 Oct Ephesians 4:17-32..... Walking Differently
- 10) 03 Nov Ephesians 5:1-14..... Walking in Love
- 11) 10 Nov Ephesians 5:15-21..... Walking Wisely
- 12) 17 Nov Ephesians 5:22-6:4..... Walking as Family
- 13) 24 Nov Ephesians 6:5-20..... Walking to Battle

INTRODUCTION

- The mystery of Christ is fully revealed – Gentiles are fellow heirs through the Gospel

Passage	Comments
Eph 3:1-2	<p>Paul, a Prisoner of Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we call ourselves a prisoner of Christ? What would that entail? <input type="checkbox"/> Every waking moment is focused on Christ <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer has priority over everything <input type="checkbox"/> Other considerations to be a prisoner of Christ? • For those of us who have not yet resisted unto blood (Heb 12:4) this is hard to comprehend
3:3-6	<p>Mystery Revealed – Gentiles can be Saved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. For his troubles Paul was deemed worthy to receive a special revelation from God. • Why God did not make clear His intentions to Old Testament Prophets is still a mystery, though it was stated that Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ) would be a blessing to all nations Gen 22:18 • Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The mystery of the Gospel included a suffering Messiah, concept of the Trinity, resurrection from the dead, and future suffering & glory of the saints ♦ AND know this – Many Old Testament Gentiles accepted the God of the Jews and were just as saved as any believing Jew: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rahab, Ruth, and Syrian General Naaman who had leprosy (2Kings 5) to name a few individuals ▪ Many followed Israel out of Egypt Ex 12:38 ▪ Nineveh – many believed in God Jonah 3:5 ▪ Many Persians “became Jews” Esther 8:17
3:7-11	<p>Paul's Special Calling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. Paul was called specifically by God to accomplish a specific and special mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ His suffering to be beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked and stoned was viewed as a gift and not a curse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “...according to the working of His power” and “...according to His eternal purpose” (v11) – in other words, only God knows the reason why ♦ Mission #1 (v8): Preach the ‘unfathomable’ riches of Christ to the Gentiles – and it was not a Mission Impossible [Side Note: God created everything (v9b) – another ding against evolution] ♦ Mission #2 (v9): Reveal in detail the mystery of the Gentiles being included in God's salvation plan • v10. The Goal: The manifold or detailed wisdom of God is made known to all the heavenly rulers – In other words, God's glory is spread from one end of His kingdom to the other • Could we accept such a mission without complaining?

Passage	Comments
Consider how Paul grew more humbled, it seems, as the years passed by	<p>v8. Paul considered himself “least of all saints” – BUT that seemingly wasn't always the case.</p> <p>Paul came across as almost arrogant early in his ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The (Apostles) contributed nothing to me” ..Gal 2:6 (~AD 55) • “I might be the least of the apostles...but I labored more than all of them” 1Cor 15:9-10 (AD 57) • “I am not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles” 2Cor 11:5 (AD 57/58) <p>About 5 years later Paul seemed to drop a notch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I am less than the least of all saints” Eph 3:8 (AD 62) <p>A few years after that, he dropped another notch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I am the worst of sinners” 1Tim 1:15 (AD 65/66)
3:12	<p>We now have BOLD access to the Throne of Grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will not be turned away, and our requests will not fall on deaf ears [Barnes Commentary – “Boldness is not rashness, and faith is not presumption; but we may come without hesitating, and with an assurance that our prayers will be heard”] • ...and our access is granted “through faith in Him” - Just the simple act of praying to God exhibits we have faith in Him. • The writer of Hebrews understood this BOLD concept. See Heb 4:16; 10:19, 35 below
3:13	<p>Don't Feel Bad for Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was the fault of the Gentiles Paul was thrown in prison, but he told them don't fret – it was for their good he was imprisoned WHY? - possibly to embolden them to witness for Christ

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Be sure to thank God for using men like Paul, who saw the big picture, and who sacrificed themselves to reach people like us

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

- Gen 22:18** And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.
- Heb 4:16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Heb 10:19** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
- Heb 10:35** Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.
- Heb 12:4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 3:14-21. Paul prays for his listeners to grow spiritually

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06-29-2015

IN THIS CHART WE CAN SEE YOUR PROMISED GOOD DEEDS COMPARED TO YOUR ACTUAL FOLLOW THROUGH