**October 21, 2018 Sermon and Community Group Notes**

* Overview: what is unique about Ephesians 3:1-13? Look at Paul’s statements in 3:1, 13 and 14. What does it mean that Ephesians 3:2-12 are a digression and what is the purpose of this digression?

1. **Paul’s Mysterious Message (Ephesians 3:1-6)**

* Read Ephesians 3:1–6
* (3:2-3) How did God reveal the gospel to Paul (hint: his testimony)?
  + Cross reference: Galatians 1:12
* (3:3-4) How is the book of Ephesians proof of Paul’s understanding of what God did in Christ?
* (3:3-5) What is a “mystery” in the Bible?
* (3:6) What is the “mystery” as explained in Ephesians 3:6?
* What are the 3 things Paul says that we Gentiles are in 3:6? What do these mean?
  + Cross references: Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:16–17; Ephesians 1:22–23; Ephesians 2:12, 19; 2 Peter 1:3–4
* **Application Questions:** 
  + Do YOU believe in the mystery of the gospel?
  + Are you living in your identity as a co-heir with Christ, a member of His body, and a partaker of God’s promises?

1. **Paul’s Mysterious Ministry (Ephesians 3:7-13)**

* Read Ephesians 3:7–13
* (3:7-8) What is the 1st thing Paul emphasizes about his ministry in Ephesians 3:7-8?
  + Cross reference: 1 Timothy 1:13-16
* (3:8-9) What is Paul’s ministry according to Ephesians 3:8-9?
* “We all have one and the same ministry, and yet each one of us has a unique ministry”. What does this statement mean? Discuss.
* (3:10-11) What is Paul saying about the church and the gospel in Ephesians 3:10-11?
* (3:12) How is Ephesians 3:12 a summary of the gospel message?
* (3:13) Why does Paul ask us not to be discouraged by his suffering in Ephesians 3:13?
* How does God use suffering in our lives?
  + Cross references: Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
* **Application Questions:** 
  + Are you aware of how great God’s grace is towards you in choosing to save you and use for His glory?
  + What is your unique ministry, the unique way in which God has called you to share His gospel and make disciples?
  + Do you believe God has a purpose for your suffering? Will you trust that He is working something much greater through your suffering for His glory?