

MYSTERY POWER



Notes:

1.

2.

3.

SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of November 25, 2018
Eph 3:1-13

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that God's power equips us to overcome barriers between ourselves and others. Describe a situation when you had to rely on the power of God to reach a resolution.
- 2 God's power is not only for the individual. It is also for the body of believers, the Church. How have you seen the power of God at work in your church or another church?
- 3 God never intended for us to live this life alone. We are called to live the Christian life together. Are you actively involved in the church? How can you encourage and exhort others in your church family to grow towards maturity in Christ?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 **Acts 26:15-18, ESV** – ¹⁵And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Describe Paul's lifestyle before his encounter with Jesus? Describe Paul's lifestyle after his encounter with Jesus?

Why do you think God chose Paul to be the person to carry his message to the Gentiles?

Knowing that God was able to use someone like Paul, do you think He can use you to minister to other people? Explain.

2

Gal 3:25-29, ESV – ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Rom 16:25-26, ESV – ²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.

Looking at the passages above, we see that God had a plan all along to reveal the mystery of the gospel to all people. What is the mystery of the gospel?

Why was this a significant shift in thinking during Paul's time?

Does the current Church (universal) reflect God's plan? Explain.

3

Col 1:24-29, ESV – ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Why does Paul rejoice in his sufferings? Where does his wisdom, energy, and power come from?

Paul was willing to struggle and suffer so that others would grow to be mature Christians? Have you ever suffered for the sake of someone else's faith? Would you be willing to do so in the future? Explain.

TAKING IT HOME

Paul reminds us that God's plan has been reveal to everyone: to reconcile people to himself, through Christ, into one group of believers, the Church. This can only happen by the power of God working in us and through us. In what ways has God called you to speak this truth in the life of others? What is your next step in helping others grow into more mature Christians?

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Acts 22:17-21

2 Cor 4:7-12

2 Cor 12:9-10

Phil 1:12-14

Col 2:2

1 Tim 1:12-17