

Ephesians 3:1-21 study guide

Even though Paul is under house arrest as he writes to these beloved friends and fellow believers, he has not gotten discouraged or swayed from his call. This is such a beautiful chapter in Paul's letter encouraging all who read it that God is in charge of all circumstances. If you want to have a good understanding of where Paul is and the details about how he got there read Acts 21:17-28:31. I know this is more reading than we normally do but this passage is so filled with action you won't want to stop reading until you find out what happens to our beloved friend Paul. Paul is writing this letter from Rome.

Maybe you are feeling a bit under your circumstances this week. Pray and ask God to speak to you as you study Ephesians 3. Read the chapter 2 or 3 times and keep in mind all that Paul is facing while he is writing.

1. Verse 1 and verse 14 both start with the same words. Highlight and write the phrase.
2. Paul says "For this reason" what was the truth Paul is pointing back to in the previous chapter?

What point had he just made in 2:19-22? What was the reason for the unity of believers?

Remember our time spent studying the "cornerstone" and what did that mean?

3. Where is Paul at the time of this writing? What is his situation? Is he free according to Roman law?
4. How does Paul view himself in verse 1?

Does this reveal anything about Paul and whose opinion he considers relevant?

Look up the word "prisoner" write out the meaning of this Greek word.

Someone in prison has usually committed an offense that they should be ashamed of, but what is Paul's crime that he is in these bonds?

5. What is the "mystery of Christ" that Paul mentions in verse 4-6?
6. What is the ministry Paul has been given?

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What has God called him to do specifically? Vs. 8

7. How does Paul describe his ministry in verse 12?
8. What is the example Paul has given us as we look at all these scriptures this week?
9. Would you say this is how you carry out the tasks that God gives you? When things get tough do you continue on with “boldness” and “confidence” believing that “...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Phil. 1:6
10. Re-read verse 13, notice the love Paul has for these believers and the love they have for him.
What does he not want them to do?

Do your trials or perhaps the trials of those in leadership cause you to lose heart? How should we handle these difficult and trying situations?

Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

2 Thess. 3:13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Gal. 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

11. In verses 14-21 Paul prays for them. What does he ask God to do for these believers?
12. Does this sound like one of your prayers?

Often my prayers are so shallow for others. I pray so specifically for some particular problem or desire that I miss the big picture of what all God could be doing in their life. Paul did not pray little prayers. Paul knew his God; he had a deep and intimate relationship with him.

Pray great prayers for others and watch God move mightily in their life and yours.