# Ephesians Chapter 3 Week 4 – MidWeek Bible Study 13 December 2023

"Your local church is full of billionaires – spiritual ones, who are infinitely wealthy in the 'boundless riches of Christ!'" -Dr. Richard Coekin

## **GROUP GATHERING (10-15 minutes)**

- 1. Read Ephesians 3 Slowly Together
- 2. What did you notice as you read & this week as you studied? (Observation)
- 3. What is a verse, phrase or chunk of Ephesians 3 that you feel like you understand better now than you did before?
- 4. Is there a part of Ephesians 3 that you can "live out" more faithfully this week? (Application)

## **Inductive Bible Study Review**

STEP 1: OBSERVE	STEP 2: INTERPRET	STEP 3: APPLY "What does it mean?"
"What does it say?" Ask good questions, make observations, pray "to notice"	"What did it mean?" What did Paul mean to write to these Ephesians? How did they understand it? What did Paul mean?	What do these chunks of Scripture have to say to us? How will we live differently because of their messages?

### The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

3 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

#### 1. Observations

#### 2. Interpretations

<u>GROUP TABLE DISCUSSION/APPLICATION:</u> Our culture has taught us to be skeptical or weary of certain people. How have you seen this tendency play itself out in a <u>negative</u> way in church communities? How have you seen the people of God transcend this behavior and welcome people that the outside world would deny or resist?

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

- 1. Observations
- 2. Interpretations

GROUP TABLE DISCUSSION/APPLICATION: Christianity has taken a lot of hits and bruises over the past decade in our culture (think: our culture does not respect or think Christians have much to offer the world). How has this reality tempted you to "lose heart"? What do you do to remember that Christ has already overcome the world and our eternal security is in Him alone?

# **Prayer for Spiritual Strength**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted

and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- 1. Observations
- 2.
- 3. Interpretations

<u>GROUP TABLE DISCUSSION/APPLICATION:</u> How would you describe the state of your own prayer life? Do you reflect on the character of who God is? Does that drive you to pray?