

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 3:1-12]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- We have now studied 1/3 of the book of Ephesians. What passage in Ephesians has been most impactful to you thus far?
- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Let's read our primary text. If you could summarize this text in one statement, what would it be?
What is Paul's thesis here?
(Example: God chose Paul and revealed to him the mystery of Christ in order that the Gentiles might become fellow heirs with Christ.)
2. Why did Paul say he was "a prisoner of Christ on behalf of the Gentiles?"
Paul faced many trials including imprisonments in his effort to take the gospel to the Gentile people. For this reason, the book of Ephesians is considered a prison epistle because Paul wrote it from prison.
3. Who knows what the Abrahamic covenant is? Where is it in Scripture? How does this text and the Abrahamic covenant connect?
In Genesis 12:3, God says that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through Abraham. As the message of the Gospel/salvation expands to include the Gentiles, all the nations are being blessed by this good news.
4. Paul says in verse 7 that he was made a minister? What do you think he means here? Where can we verify this miraculous calling this in the Bible?
Of the apostles and prophets, Paul considers himself the least of the saints (v.8), but when Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), the Lord declared to him that he would be

“instrument to carry his name before the Gentiles.” Therefore, Paul was going to be a minister of the gospel by the choosing of the Lord.

5. What role does the church play in this text?

Paul says that through the church the multi-faceted wisdom of God would be made known to spiritual authorities in the heavenly places (see also 1 Peter 1:10-12 - “things into which angels long to look”). All of creation, including the spiritual realm, longs to know the heart of God.

6. How does this text describe our access to God? How are we granted access?

We should be bold and confident in our access to God for our access is approved (we are justified in Christ) and sealed eternally (by the Holy Spirit). All of this is granted through faith in Christ.

7. Paul sees himself as a steward of the lavish grace that was poured out on his life. What can we learn from this?

[Discussion: We are partakers of this incredible grace, are we stewarding this gift well?]

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.