

studies from  
**EPHESIANS**



~Life Group Questions~

**The Purpose of the Ages**  
**Ephesians 3:1-21**

1. Read the first half of this week's passage (verses 1-13).
2. Considering what you have just read and thinking back to Sunday's teaching on this passage, is there anything that particularly caught your attention, confused or challenged you?
3. The phrase "eternal purpose," used in verse 11, can be translated to the more emphatic "the purpose of the ages." Do you believe there is one great "purpose of the ages?" If so what do you believe that purpose to be? If the only bible a person could read is the way you live your life, what would they conclude is your purpose of the ages?

4. What does verse 2 tell us that Paul was given?

The **S** \_\_\_\_\_ of God's **G** \_\_\_\_\_.

When we are given a stewardship we are given a special responsibility. Share a special responsibility that you have been given.

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**5.** From verses 1 and 13 what do we learn about the sacrifices Paul made to accomplish the special responsibility God had given him?

**a.** Refer to 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 and discuss the list of tribulations Paul experienced as he sought to fulfill the special responsibility God had given him.

**b.** Share with the group the one thing in life you have sacrificed the most to achieve? Was your sacrifice worth the cost?

**6.** You may have noticed that the word "mystery" is predominate in this passage (verses 3, 4, 9 and referred to in verse 5 by the pronoun "its"). Read the definition of "mystery" offered below and then discuss how Paul defines "the mystery" in verse 6 and also Colossians 1:25-27.

"Biblically a mystery is something which is not understood until revealed, and when revealed, not difficult of being understood by the spirit-enlightened believer."

Kenneth S. Wuest.

**7.** Discuss the following reasons why "Christ in us, the hope of glory" might have been a mystery to both Jews and Gentiles alike and then discuss why it should be a mystery to us today.

**a.** In the first century an Israelite would have never imagined that God could love a non-Jewish person.

**b.** In the Greek and Roman mindset of the day the 'gods' would never have condescended to abide in a human heart, much less love all of humanity.

**c.** As the owner of a fallen and sinful human heart, I can never imagine why God would choose to abide in me.

8. In light of question 6, do you think the following is an overstatement?

*"Christ in me, the hope of glory" will forever be an unfathomable, awe inspiring, life changing and worship producing mystery.*

- a. What can you add or what would you subtract from this statement?

**Read Verses 14-21.**

9. Paul begins his prayer with the phrase "For this reason." What reason do you think Paul is referring to?

10. Below is a list of the specific things Paul has prayed would happen in the life of his readers. Circle the one thing (or two, or three or all of them☺) that you would most like to see become a greater reality in your life.

**Vs 16;** Our inner spiritual person would be strengthened.

**Vs. 17;** That Christ would dwell (be at home) in our hearts.

**Vs. 18 &19;** That we would be able to comprehend and know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge and grows beyond comprehension.

**Vs. 19;** That we would be filled up to all the fullness of God.

**Vs. 21;** That forever and ever God would receive all the glory.

**Now take a moment to pray these things for one another.**