

## **“What God’s Revelation Reveals about Today’s Mysteries”**

### Sermon Notes: Ephesians 3:1-7

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#### **Review:**

- Ephesians can be viewed in two major sections: Chapters 1 – 3, and Chapters 4 – 6. In the first section, Paul lays a **theological foundation** and in the second section, he shows what it looks like to live out this theology.
  - We see three major themes in Ephesians. 1) God is **God**, 2) God’s salvation is more amazing than we grasp, 3) God glories in his **church**.
  - The writer is Paul. The original readers were the believers in Ephesus, a diverse crowd which included people who had previously practiced magic and spirit worship.
  - In chapter 1 we discover our need to **See** spiritual truth which includes who God is, how incredible his salvation is, and how much he treasures you. In chapter 2 we discover that we are united by **Christ** – not by our background. We all need the same amount of Grace.
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**Main Point:** We continue to see the relationship between good theology and how we live. To understand the progression of God’s redemptive plan teaches us about God’s character and how to respond to mysteries in our own lives.

**Today’s Study:** Ephesians 3:1-7—*Today’s text sees Paul about to pray (3:1), but before he does he takes a moment to remind the readers of the rich theology of God’s redemptive plan (3:2-12) so that the readers are not discouraged by Paul’s current imprisonment (3:13).*

- God’s revelation reveals the **necessity** for revelation – Notice the word “mystery”**
  - We saw last week that God **calls** to the Nations throughout history.
  - Yet, **special** revelation was needed for people to see God’s full plan.
- God’s revelation reveals the big picture and our role in it**
  - Why does an imprisoned Paul describe his role as a “gift of God’s grace?” (7)
  - Being part of God’s plan does not always look like **success** and **happiness**
- God’s revelation reveals his Trustworthiness**
  - **Ability** – We can trust God because he is in control.
  - **Character** – We can trust God because he does not lie or deceive. This is a major principle for studying progressive revelation!

#### **Applying God’s Word: Let’s Talk!**

- In verses 1 and 13 we discovered that Paul is suffering in prison! This was undoubtedly a difficult time and yet he used the reminder of God’s great redemptive plan to encourage. How does that which has already been revealed apply to life today?
  - How do you view God’s character?
  - Do you have a biblical view of personal success?
  - When there is no easy answer (today’s mysteries), how do you respond?