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*Wednesday GEL Group*

*Grow Encourage Learn*

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As we have seen in chapter 2, Paul wants to make it clear to his readers, that God has sought to include Gentiles along with Jews in the church as a consistent fulfillment of God's ages-old intentions. Paul's seeks to unfold in his letter, an understanding of what God, in His infinite love and power, has been planning, even beyond that which is thought of or comprehended by humans. As we will read here today, Paul interrupts his thoughts to express a further point. That is, God is working according to a plan that he began to reveal centuries ago and is only now working out.

In tonight's section of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we will unpack two reasons to conclude tonight in prayer. What we will be praying will be provided in these reasons. It is my hope, that as we study God's word, we will understand the 'why' behind 'what' we will be praying.

1. Let's read Ephesians 3:1-6. What is Paul asserting here in terms of providing us a background of what he is writing? Does Colossians 1:25-27 also provide us with some clues?
2. What is the mystery Paul is concerned with? How does verse 6 provide us with the content?
3. One of the key words of this first section is revelation. Let's reflect on this. This is the process by which God makes known what has not been previously disclosed. There are truths that can be made known through "general revelation," such as God's eternal power and divine nature. Let's read Romans 1:18-20 to see what Paul informs us about this. God has also given further revelation about himself and other truths in Scripture as well Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. This is "Special revelation." It is in Scripture for example, God's acts in history are further understood. Let's consider what is stated in Galatians 3:23-29 regarding this. Let's also compare Romans 4:13-16 and Romans 9:8. Inspiration is the means by which God produced Scripture as breathed by the Holy Spirit and conveyed this revelation to us. Not only the writers but also the Word itself is inspired (see Romans 8:17; 2 Timothy 3:16.)
4. Does this mean then, that both Jew and Gentile share in the one promise, on the basis not of ethnicity but of incorporation together in Christ? Draw a conclusion to this statement from what we see in Ephesians 2:11-22 and 3:1-6

5. What are the key points in Ephesians 3:8-13?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What does it mean “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms?” Does Ephesians chapter 1 provide us with some clues?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Let’s read Ephesians 3:14-21. What does Paul do? What is his reason?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How are we filled to the measure of all the fullness of God? How do you feel about this? How do you see this in your every-day journey of faith? Can you share an experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How does verses 20-21 shape the way we pray?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How has your relationship in Christ **grown** tonight?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What areas of faith have you been **encouraged**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Can you share something that you have **learnt**?