

_____ for the Mystery of Christ

- The mystery of Christ is _____ to the world then and always.
- The mystery of Christ is _____ to the world through our _____, then and now.
- The mystery of Christ is so _____ and _____ that it's worth our _____.



Hope for Everyone Revealed

Ephesians 3:1-7

Sunday, December 8, 2019

The season of Advent offers us, if we will take it, an opportunity to slow down and contemplate the wonder of Christmas. In these Sundays leading up to Christmas, that's our aim as we study the teaching of Ephesians 3. Today, we discover an invitation to both marvel at and suffer for the "mystery of Christ" . . .

_____ at the Mystery of Christ

- When we think of a mystery we think of something _____ or _____.
- When the Bible speaks of a mystery, it means a truth _____ and/or _____.

So what is the mystery of Christ?

- A truth not made known to the sons of men in other _____.
- A truth now _____ by the _____ to Paul, the apostles and the prophets.
- The truth that there is _____ for _____ who trusts Jesus because through the Gospel:
 - We are _____ in the same family.
 - We are _____ of the same body.
 - We are _____ of the same promise.



NEXT WEEK

Hope for Everyone Proclaimed

Ephesians 3:8-13



Hope for Everyone Revealed

Ephesians 3:1-7

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody together our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.

Connecting Together

Take some time to share ways you can slow down and contemplate the wonder of Christmas this Advent season.

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. How did you come under God's Word in the message this week? How did God speak to you this week? What truth did you need to hear again or for the first time in this message?
2. Read Ephesians 3:1-7 together. What do we usually mean when we use the word MYSTERY? What does the Bible mean when it uses the word MYSTERY? How is that Biblical meaning shown here?
3. How does Ephesians 3:1-7 really emphasize the UNITED theme of Ephesians? Who is united and in what in these verses?

4. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** Paradoxically, on the one hand, Paul is marveling at the revelation of the mystery of Christ. So what does it mean to marvel at the Gospel of Christmas and how can we do that together as a Growth Group family?
5. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** Paradoxically, on the other hand, Paul is suffering in prison for the mystery of Christ. What kind of suffering might we encounter or embrace for the sake of making the Gospel of Christmas known to not-yet-Christians?

Praying Together

- Take time together to praise and marvel in prayer at the mystery of Christ.
- Pray for grace to embrace sacrifice and suffering for the sake of making known the Gospel to not-yet-Christians in your circle of influence. Pray for them by name.
- Pray for group needs.