

COMMUNITY

Swap stories. Do you remember a time when you fought with one of your siblings? Tell us how your parents “helped” you to be reconciled.

PRAYER

Pray for guidance and direction for our Deaf Ministry. That we could grow a team of interpreters and develop a ministry that serves our Deaf and Deaf/Blind community and TBC attenders.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

by Kevin Valson

Ephesians 3: 1-13 Gentile inclusion

In these verses, Paul relates the relevance of his current imprisonment to the true gospel of inclusion.

Paul’s reasoning here is straightforward: Paul was given the revelation that gentiles are fellow heirs with Jews (Eph 3:6). When he shares this gospel truth, he faces persecution and imprisonment (Eph 3:1). However, the preaching of the very same truth brings gentiles into a saving relationship with God (Eph 3:13). So, in effect, Paul’s suffering is of benefit to the gentiles.

Paul uses the word ‘mystery’ seven times in this letter and three times in this section. The word mystery does not refer to a riddle or conundrum. Rather, it refers to truths that were partially revealed in the past but have now come to light.

Read Ephesians 3:1-13. Then answer the following questions.

1. What revelation is Paul likely talking about in Ephesians 3:2?
2. What does Ephesians 3:6 teach us about the relationship between Jews and gentiles in the church?
3. Like several other prophets, Isaiah also predicts a new covenant between God and His people. Read Isaiah 56:3-8. In these verses, what is prophesied about the status of gentiles in the new covenant?
4. Paul mentions in Christ we display God’s wisdom to the “rulers and authorities.” How do our actions together with the church show off God’s wise plan, even to the spiritual realm?
5. In Ephesians 3:12, Paul says that all believers have access to God by faith. Read Matt 27:51. How does this verse help us understand Paul’s teaching?
6. How do we approach God in freedom and confidence? What does this look like in our life?