

Truth Revealed  
Ephesians 3:1-6

I. Intro

- A. I'm so thankful God chose to reveal truth to fallen humanity.
- B. We have done a really good job at complicating it all since it has been revealed, but it is to our shame.
- C. Lets look back at genuine revelation and the discovery of truth for God's favor, blessing, and direction.
- D. Great Joy in Receiving Truth:
  1. Its like a group of elementary school kids heading to the playground for recess.
  2. They are in a perfect line, because they do not want to mess up this part of the day,
  3. Then they hit the gate and scatter to whatever element was on their mind
  4. My school had a giant giraffe climbing thingy...with no safety consideration.
  5. Truth...we are all on the playground...but we are free to explore it as we are so lead by the Spirit!

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-3
  1. The Mystery was made known to Paul by REVELATION
  2. God revealed the truth to Paul, he then delivered it to us and we recognize it to be scripture.
  3. How? Verbal Plenary Theory and Dictation Theory
- B. Verses 4: we can perceive his insight
  1. There is no doubt Paul is brilliant
  2. And his brilliance was then brought to fullness by the work of the gospel.
    - a) You will never be brilliant enough to overcome lostness
    - b) You can never reason your way out of being an enemy of God.
- C. Verse 5: The Spirit brings about this understanding.
  1. You can gain knowledge in the carnal world
  2. You can gain wisdom in the carnal world
  3. But you could never gain understanding without the Spirit!
  4. 2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.
- D. Verse 6: a powerful mystery! (Revealed?)

III. Point

- A. Stewardship of God's Grace: (Responsibility)
  1. When ministry is entrusted to you, you have responsibility:
  2. Stewardship: (Webster's) the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.
  3. Salvation by GRACE produces a MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITY in every single believer
    - a) No-one is left to spiritual vacation for the rest of their days.
    - b) All are given gifts that are meant to be used
    - c) Careful and responsible management
  4. We should be take our responsibility as serious as Paul
    - a) Giving his best effort and energy for the cause
    - b) Demonstrating what it looks like:
      - (1) Saved and placed in ministry though undeserving
      - (2) Set about to accomplish that ministry
      - (3) Recover from set backs, and keep on
      - (4) Challenge others to do the same.
  5. Our responsibilities, given to us by God, need to be properly stewarded by God's people.
    - a) Manage your responsibilities with GRACE and TRUTH

- b) Your family needs GRACE and TRUTH
  - c) Your coworkers need grace and truth
  - d) Don't forget the kindness when you are seeing nothing but conviction.
- B. Insight into the Mystery: (Revelation)
1. Foundation of this truth: Revelation comes through God's word, its been revealed, now it illuminates the dark places with the light of the gospel.
  2. There is no new scripture
  3. Mystery Scriptures:
    - a) [Rom 11:25 ESV] 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
    - b) [Rom 16:25 ESV] 25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
    - c) [Col 1:26-27 ESV] 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
  4. There are so many mysteries concerning the truth of Scripture, yet this one is revealed.
    - a) Gentiles have been brought near
    - b) Gentiles are fellow heirs
    - c) Gentiles are members of the same body
    - d) Gentiles are partakers of the promise
- C. Partakers of the Promise: (Reward)
1. This could be my favorite part!
  2. I love to think of the ultimate reward of heaven, but I'm not so farsighted that I miss the reward here:
    - a) We are rewarded with relationship, with God and other believers
    - b) We are rewarded with blessings, both seen and unseen
    - c) We are rewarded with favor
    - d) We are rewarded with challenges, conviction, and correction
    - e) This is not just about heaven, this is about life now, life eternal.
  3. We have been brought near, but the will of God, to be partakers of this hope in Christ
  4. AND this hope is delivered to us through the gospel!
  5. There is joy in partaking:
    - a) Luke 14:15-24
    - b) 15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" 16 But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant[a] to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' 20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' 22 And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 23 And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you,[b] none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

- c) This parable is referencing the Jews, who were near, and the gentiles, who were far off. But has application today as well.
- d) Many look at faith in much the same way, we really don't want to commit, my friends, that's simply not good enough!
- e) Take a step towards God in faith, and you will find the relationship that draws you in.

#### IV. Close

[Eph 3:1-6 ESV] 1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles-- 2 assuming that you have heard of the **stewardship of God's grace** that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my **insight into the mystery** of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and **partakers of the promise** in Christ Jesus through the gospel.