



Ephesians 3 (Part 1)

-Paul stops the main flow of his letter and discusses his mission and ministry from God

- What do you know about Paul's life and ministry?
- he did some really awesome things and had some really tough times

How does Paul describe his ministry (work for God)?

ver 2-6

- he was made a steward of God's grace and God's mystery
- what's a steward?
- someone who has been given something to care for
- *house-sitting
- Paul was given an amazing message of truth and hope but it wasn't for him to keep or abuse
- what was the mystery? (ver 6)
- that Gentiles now get to know God and be a part of his people, equal to the Jews

*Knowing the Gospel brings benefit and responsibility

ver 7-12

- Paul highlights a bunch of the awesome aspects of his ministry
- he gets to demonstrate God power
- he got to tell a lot of people the Gospel for the first time and start a lot of churches
- as Paul reveals the mystery and the church is built, angels are learning about God's plan
- he gets to be part of God's eternal purpose (he writes a large amount of the New Testament)

*Paul is never arrogant about his accomplishments

- he doesn't do this by downplaying them
- this can be our go to when we try to be humble
- however, we are still making it about us and taking glory from God
- *do be careful to keep proper perspective of what really is an accomplishment
- he celebrates them by praising God and not himself
- when Paul talks about them it's all about God not him

*keeping our focus and the glory on God will keep us both from becoming prideful and depressed

ver 13

-God is responsible at work in Paul's suffering as well as his accomplishments

- we are often prideful and downhearted for the same reason. We take too much responsibility for results in our lives
- We are responsible to walk in the good works. God provides both the good works and the results

Small Groups

- 1) What was Paul's attitude toward his accomplishments? Toward his struggles?
- 2) How do you respond when people praise your accomplishments?
- 3) How do you view your struggles? Do you take unnecessary blame on your self?