

BLUEPRINT

LIFE NOTES

Ephesians 3:1-22

October 29, 2017

QUESTIONS

1. The Apostle Paul talks about him being 'graced' or gifted with a task in verses 2, 7 and 8; what was this gift? Provide other Scriptures (such as Galatians 2:9-10) to flesh out what this meant. Was this his choice, an appointment by others, or was there something much bigger happening here? How does this apply to the gifts you have been given?

2. In modern culture, a 'mystery' is something that has not yet been cleared up, as in a mystery story, where something puzzling is eventually figured out. But the word is used differently in Ephesians (3:3, 4, 9). The word means 'initiate.' Thus, in the first century, a 'mystery' was something no one could figure out; instead a person had to be 'initiated into' that knowledge by someone else." (383 INT Achtemier et al.) Who revealed this knowledge to Paul? What was the mystery (v. 6) and is this the same mystery spoken by Paul in Colossians 2:2? Can we understand this mystery by our intellect alone?

3. The church is a predominate theme in the book of Ephesians. Who made up this new organism according to verses 10 and 11? What does Paul say is the church's function in these texts? Is this your understanding of the purpose of the church? Who are these "rulers and authorities" Paul mentions and what do they have to do with God's intent for the church?

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Read through the prayer in verses 14-21. Instead of talking about the great themes mentioned here, take the time to prayerfully meditate on it and invite the Holy Spirit to strengthen your innermost being. Share with one another what you have experienced, or what you have heard from the Lord.