



Series | Ephesians: All Things United in Christ

Sermon | Suffering for Good

Ephesians 3:1-13

Sermon Outline

- I. Starting to Pray . . .
- II. Stewardship of the Mystery
- III. Significance of the Gospel
- IV. So Don't Lose Heart

Sermon Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Paul starts to pray for the Gentile Christians in Ephesus and then takes a detour? What do you think was going through his heart and mind as he was either writing or, quite possibly, dictating his letter out loud to a scribe/secretary?
2. Paul is making it clear that the gospel is something that was revealed, not something he chose or figured out on his own. Why does this matter? How does it affect how we think about our interaction with the gospel and how we should interact with non-believing friends?
3. The Jews and Gentiles coming together to form the NT church results in several new group identity words. They are heirs together/fellow heirs, members of one body/body together and partakers/sharing together. Why do you think Paul chooses each of these words?
4. The significance of the proclamation of the gospel in this passage is that the many-splendored wisdom of God will be made known to spiritual rulers and authorities.
 - a. What does this mean?
 - b. Why is it so helpful?
5. How is Paul's suffering bringing glory for the Ephesians? What kind of theology of suffering is at work here, and how can it help how you think about and endure suffering?