

Worship, Community, Discipleship
September 6th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Ephesians 3:7-12

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. What is Paul's attitude in light of his incredible calling? What lesson is applicable in Paul's attitude for our lives?
2. Summarize verse 9 in your own words. What is the mystery that Paul is referring to here?
3. How do we, living after Jesus' death and resurrection, have more revelation than any of the Old Testament saints? How should this impact our lives?
4. Verse 10 gives a concise purpose statement of the purpose of the church and our worship. What does it mean?
5. In light of all that Paul has said, he points out that what is mystery to us is according to God's eternal purpose. What assurance does that bring us?
6. What two attitudes does verse 12 remind us that we have in Jesus?

Corporate worship is designed to make Jesus more attractive to you than any idol in creation that you could ever serve.
- Paul David Tripp

NEXT STEPS

- How does the church display "the manifold wisdom of God" to the heavenly realms and to our world? As people (and angels) look at the church, what should they see that they can find nowhere else? How does this highlight and put the Gospel on display?
- When you hear the word "worship", what comes to mind? As you study that word as it is used in Scripture, how might your definition be wrong or inadequate?
- A.W. Tozer said, "If in our Saturday pursuits we're far from God's presence, we're not in very good shape to worship Him on Sunday." As you examine your life Monday-Saturday, is there anything in your life that makes worship on Sunday difficult? Confess these things and spend time preparing your heart and mind for worship this Sunday.
- C.S. Lewis said, "The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God." Why is this so difficult? Pray that God will help you put all of your focus on him as you enter into worship this week.