



## DAY 73

### READ

EPHESIANS 3:1-6

### FOCUS

<sup>1</sup>FOR THIS REASON I, PAUL, THE PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS FOR THE SAKE OF YOU GENTILES— <sup>2</sup>SURELY YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOD'S GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME FOR YOU, <sup>3</sup>THAT IS, THE MYSTERY MADE KNOWN TO ME BY REVELATION, AS I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN BRIEFLY. <sup>4</sup>IN READING THIS, THEN, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND MY INSIGHT INTO THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, <sup>5</sup>WHICH WAS NOT MADE KNOWN TO PEOPLE IN OTHER GENERATIONS AS IT HAS NOW BEEN REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT TO GOD'S HOLY APOSTLES AND PROPHETS. <sup>6</sup>THIS MYSTERY IS THAT THROUGH THE GOSPEL THE GENTILES ARE HEIRS TOGETHER WITH ISRAEL, MEMBERS TOGETHER OF ONE BODY, AND SHARERS TOGETHER IN THE PROMISE IN CHRIST JESUS.

### REFLECTION from PASTOR CODY SURRATT

Imagine it's 1000 BC and you are living in Israel, it's the golden era. King David is on the throne, the nation is prosperous, powerful, and influential. After all the ups and downs, family division, being enslaved in Egypt, wandering in the desert, battles over territory, it looks like the promise that God made to Abraham is finally coming true. Israel has become a great nation, they are in a position where God can use them to bless the entire world, and on top of all of that, God just made a new promise to David, that he would always have an heir on the throne. God's plan seems to finally be kicking into gear, He is making a way for humanity to come back into a relationship with Him.

Now that you have placed yourself within that context, here's the question: How is God going to do it? How is God going to use the nation of Israel to reconcile man to Himself? God said He would use Abraham to create a nation (Israel) and through them they would bless the world, but not many more details. So, how is God going to bless (reconcile) humanity to himself? My initial thought would be, He would continue to do what He has been doing thus far, to continue to expand Israel's reign over each nation in the world until it has finally conquered everyone. This is how the world works (especially up until that point), it is through power, strength, and dominance that the world changes. It's how Israel had come to prominence as well, through defeating the previous inhabitants that lived in the promised land and through the continual accumulation of wealth and power. Look no further than King David himself, who was a wealthy warrior king.

Fast forward a thousand years from David to right before Christ birth. If you were an Israelite, you would have a totally different view. If you still believed God was working out His plan in the world (many had given up hope at this point), you couldn't see how. Israel had been defeated numerous times, enslaved once again, and was now living under Roman rule. It felt like Israel was so close when David was king, they were in a position to change the world, but now they are just hoping to survive another day. From the world's perspective Israel was all but finished, but from God's perspective they were right where He wanted them. This is why Paul calls it a "mystery", because no one would have guessed it or seen it coming, not only the timing but the method in which God would save mankind.

Ephesians 3:6 "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus". No one would have seen this coming because everything about the gospel is counterintuitive. That Jesus would come and die on our behalf and it is only by Grace through Faith that we are saved not by our good deeds is totally backward. We want to earn our Salvation, we want to prove we are good enough, that we are worthy, that we somehow deserve God's forgiveness. But we can't, we need someone to save us because we are so broken and sinful. So, Jesus comes to do what we can not, but even the way He does it is backward. It's not through power but weakness, triumph through suffering, He wins lives by losing His. Finally, when the mystery is revealed in Christ, it is able to do something no nation could do on its own, unite people into one body. The Jews and the Gentiles were not just different, they were opposed to one another, and yet through the mystery of the gospel they have become one, their allegiance is now to Christ and they have become family.



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### REFLECTION from PASTOR CODY SURRETT (CONTD)

The world is always looking for solutions to problems, that will never change. It could be disease, division, or disasters but they are looking in the wrong place, they are playing by the wrong set of rules. It is not through power and strength we will ultimately find healing, reconciliation, and peace, it is through humbly coming to Christ and saying: I need you, I can not fix this. The way of the world has never worked, it is the mystery of the gospel that has the power to save, or as we say around here at SCG, **Jesus Changes Everything!**

DAILY DEVOTION