

Message: The Great Mystery - GRACE

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Ephesians 3 | Romans 8:38-39 | 2 Corinthians 11 | Galatians 2:11-21  
Philippians 3:1-14

Mystery: Something that wasn't previously known.

- Anyone can be in Christ and Christ will be in them.
- Grace: Getting what I don't deserve.
- Mercy: Not getting what I do deserve.

Paul's passionate and fervent prayer for you: *To understand the mystery of grace – God's Love.*

Spiritual Maturity

- Is from the inside out.
- Is a process, not an event.
- The goal is progress, not perfection.

Understanding the magnitude of God's love.

*Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. If you're not in a Life Group, consider taking that Next Step and joining one today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>*

### Share your story

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover as we worshiped the Lord together this past Sunday?

Describe a moment in your life when you received something incredible that you didn't deserve. How did you respond?

Describe a moment in your life when you deserved the consequence for something and instead it was waved, or paid for. What happened? How did you respond?

### Connect to God's story

#### Read Ephesians 3:1-13.

What is God's plan? Why is his plan so important to both the Jews and the Gentiles (everybody who is not Jewish)? How is this a picture of God's mercy and grace in action?

What comes to your mind when you read what Paul says about a mystery? What mystery he refers to was revealed to him? From what Paul writes, is that mystery supposed to remain a secret?

What are the "endless treasures" (NLT) in Christ? How do these treasures bring joy and hope to you personally?

What does Paul tell us that God's purpose is for the church? Why might our unity in diversity display the wisdom of God? Have you ever thought of your testimony as being something that proclaims truth to an unseen realm?

**Read Ephesians 3:12-20.**

Why is verses 12-13 of this chapter key to Paul's prayer? What is Paul helping us to see about why he can boldly and confidently go before the Lord? Can this help you in how you approach the Lord in prayer? How?

Paul mentions his physical posture in prayer. Why might it be important to kneel, stand, lay down, raise your hands, etc., as you come to the Father in prayer? When you pray, what position do you take before the Lord?

What is one thing that stands out to you from Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus? Why do you think he prays such a powerful prayer right in the middle of his letter? (Watch the Bible Project on Ephesians to gain some insight: <https://youtu.be/Y71r-Tq8E2Q>)

*Read through this prayer in **Ephesians 3:14-21** again as your prayer for your group and our church. God is able accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think!*

## Real Life Prayer for 2022

Lord Jesus,

I affirm that I am fully known by You; my thoughts, fears, hopes, and dreams. You know my past, present, and future. I am fully known and loved by You.

I desire to know You more - Your heart, Your will, Your purposes.

I commit to making You known in my areas of influence through my words, actions, attitude, and joy. I commit to love as You love.

I ask you, Lord Jesus, to use me daily for Your purposes.

I pray this with a heart of gratitude,

Amen.

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