

Ephesians Part 4—The Unsearchable Riches of Christ
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

God wants to reveal His mysteries to you.

[Ephesians 3:1-6, ESV]

3 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— **2** assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** how the **mystery** was made known to me by **revelation**, as I have written briefly. **4** When you read this, you can perceive my **insight** into the **mystery** of Christ, **5** which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been **revealed** to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. **6** This **mystery** is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Greek Def. mystērion = a divine secret, or a revealed secret

Bakers Encyclopedia: mystery = counsel, or secret plan, which God shares only with his people.

Mysteries are not just facts that are withheld; they are the truth that He is waiting to make known to us.

Greek Def. apokalypsis = something that is made fully known; a full disclosure.

Bakers Encyclopedia = referring to either the act of revealing or making known.

We are here on a physical world, but God is calling us from another realm or dimension. He initiates the revelation by calling us by name!

Revelation typically works out with a promise and then a process; if you don't know now, keep walking forward.

We don't just need information. We need a revelation. God wants to make us a new creation.

[Ephesians 3:7-13, ESV]

“**7** Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. **8** To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches of Christ,** **9** and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, **10** so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. **13** So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”

When we are in the unknown and when we face mysteries in our life, the secret to uncovering these mysteries are found in the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Greek Def. unsearchable: anexichniastos = impossible to understand, unsearchable, inscrutable, incomprehensible

Unsearchable doesn't mean it can't be found; it just means it is beyond our comprehension.

We're trying to find answers in a place that's temporary. God wants to reveal something greater than this world has to offer.

If the riches can't be taken with you to eternity, they are not true riches.

Two questions about a spirit-led life—

- ***Am I listening?***
- ***Have I obeyed what He has already spoken to me?***

Revelation is always communicated to the spirit.

[Colossians 1:26-27, ESV]

“the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

[Psalms 73:25-26, ESV]

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

[1 Corinthians 2:6-7, ESV]

“Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.”

FOR MONDAY—

1. Read Ephesians 3:1-13 looking for the “unsearchable riches of Christ.” Spend time asking for revelation for this season.
2. Take inventory of what God has spoken to you already, and give honest assessment to if you’ve obeyed them.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What does the word “mystery” bring to mind? How can mystery be both challenging and promising?
2. How do you think God is positioning us as a Church to enter a new season?
3. Why do you think revelation first comes as a promise and then fulfills through a process? What have you experienced this progression in a specific season or situation?
4. How are “mystery” and “revelation” connected biblically?
5. Considering the “unsearchable riches of Christ,” what are some things that you’ve realized are behind your comprehension or need for understanding?
6. What are some qualities of a life led by the Spirit? What steps of obedience can you take even this week?
7. Practically: Who can you serve? Forgive? Share your faith with? Show generosity to?