

THE GREATEST MYSTERY STORY OF ALL TIME

EPHESIANS – PART 5

Introduction – In a good mystery, we learn a series of facts over time, but the meaning of them is uncertain. At the close of the story someone puts all the information together to make sense of the mystery. The Bible is the greatest mystery ever told. Paul is like a detective that brings all the facts together explaining God's purpose for human beings.

A. Administration of God's Grace

Ephesians 3:1-6

1. An administrator is needed to see that resources are put to the use for which they were intended.
2. God's grace needs to be administered to all people through the proclamation of the good news about Jesus.
3. The gospel is the story about what God has done for us in Jesus. The redemptive power of the cross and the hope of the resurrection are the mysterious way God is saving us from a meaningless existence.
4. This mystery was unknown to previous generations but now has been revealed by the Spirit through the apostles and prophets.
5. The mystery is how Gentiles are: 1) heirs with Israel, 2) members of one body, 3) sharers of the promise in Christ Jesus.

B. Administration of This Mystery

Ephesians 3:7-13

1. We, like Paul, have been called to administer this mystery to our contemporaries.
2. We, like Paul, are unworthy to be servants of this message.
3. We must make it plain that God's eternal purpose is being realized in the church of Christ.
4. God is no longer distant and unknowable. Through Jesus we can all approach God with freedom and confidence.

1 John 5:13-15

Conclusion – The greatest mystery is how God is reconciling rebellious human beings into one community, which will inherit what God has promised. This mystery is revealed in the Bible, but is designed to be shared person-to-person like Paul did in the first century.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Ephesians refer to the message of the gospel as a mystery?
2. How is this mystery to be shared?
3. What does it mean that we can approach God now with freedom and confidence?