

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 1 – We Are Richer Than We Think Ephesians 1:1 - 10

1. Read Ephesians 1:1 – 10
Pick out 2 of the main themes of these verses.
 - a. He C _ _ _ _ us.
 - b. He P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ us.

2. Do you know - What is the largest ever lottery win in Europe? _____
- What is the largest ever lottery win in the USA? _____
- What is the largest ever lottery win in Canada? _____

3. Why do so many people play the lottery?

4. What has this got to do with Ephesians?
This deals with the biggest need in the spiritual realm:

People are aware of S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _ made on them,
but do not have A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

5. As we start this look into the book of Ephesians there are 2 very important elements
 - a. The R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of a Christian
 - b. The R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of a Christian.

6. What is the word [or a derivative of that word] that keeps appearing in these 3 chapters of Ephesians.
 - i. Ephesians 1:7
 - ii. Ephesians 1:18
 - iii. Ephesians 2:4 – 5
 - iv. Ephesians 2:7
 - v. Ephesians 3:8
 - v. Ephesians 3:16

7. Ephesians declares that:

'.... **out of** His glorious riches He may strengthen you.....' Ephesians 3:16
and in Ephesians 1:7 Paul speaks of "..... **in accordance with** the riches"

Consider the important difference between 'out of' and 'in accordance with'.

8. When we consider the limitless resources available to us, let us now consider the 'Responsibilities' to which we can apply those resources. Here are listed some of them.....

- i. F _____ Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4
- ii. C _____ Ephesians Chapter 3 and 4
- iii. W _____ Ephesians 6:5 – 9
- iv. C _____ Ephesians 4:17 – 5:20
- v. H _____ R _____ Ephesians 6:10 - 20

9. Now, consider what would be the definition of 'STRESS'?

10. So what are the trigger points for stress in our lives?

F _____
P _____
E _____
S _____

Final Thoughts

Isn't it astonishing that
the 'incomparable', 'unsearchable' and 'glorious' riches of God
are available to us
– according to HIS riches
to strengthen us with power through His Spirit
in our inner being.?!?

When we encounter bigger demands,
all we need to do is dig deeper into God.

Leader's Message Guide

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 1 – We Are Richer Than We Think Ephesians 1:1 - 10

1. Two of the main themes of these verses are:
 - a. He **CHOSE** us.
 - b. He **PREDESTINED** us.

2. The largest ever lottery win in Europe? \$185 million
The largest ever lottery win in the USA? \$390 million
The largest ever lottery win in Canada? \$54 million

3.
 - a. Greed
 - b. Covetousness
 - c. They think that money will make them happy.
 - d. They think that money will heal broken relationships.

The reason to discuss here:

The demands on me are greater than my resources.

In the year 2000 the average Canadian personal debt [credit cards, car payments, mortgages etc] was \$20,000 per person. In 2011 that has more than doubled to over \$40,000 per person.

4. People are aware of **SPIRITUAL DEMANDS** made on them, but do not have **ADEQUATE RESOURCES**.

5.
 - a. The **RESPONSIBILITIES** of a Christian
 - b. The **RESOURCES** that are available to us to help us meet those responsibilities.

6. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we have access to all the '**riches**' of God.

7. A millionaire can give 'out of' his riches, but once all his money has gone he will have nothing more to give.

When God gives 'out of' His riches He gives only what we need, when we need it.

But when God gives 'according to' His riches, as He does when He extends His grace and forgiveness towards us, there is absolutely **NO LIMIT**. His love and grace towards us is incomparable, unsearchable and limitless.

8.
 - i. **FAMILY** Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4
 - ii. **CHURCH** Ephesians Chapter 3 and 4
 - iii. **WORKPLACE** Ephesians 6:5 – 9
 - iv. **COMMUNITY** Ephesians 4:17 – 5:20
 - v. **HEAVENLY REALMS** Ephesians 6:10 - 20

9. The definitions of 'stress' could be:

When the demands put upon us outweigh the resources we have.

Does this sound familiar?

10. Our stress trigger points are:

FINANCES

PHYSICAL

EMOTIONS

SPIRITUAL

But don't worry!

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians – Resources & Responsibilities Part 2 – Living In Two Worlds Ephesians 1:1 - 2

1. Read and consider Ephesians 1:1-2
What does Paul introduce his readers as?
They are S _____ in Ephesus
They are F _____ in Christ
2. There are 3 things that they have two of:
They have 2 I _____
They have 2 A _____
They belong to 2 S _____
3. Consider what this means to us today.
4. So what was it like to try to 'live as a saint' in Ephesus?
Ephesus was -
 - a. A L ____ W ____ from J _____
 - b. A P _____ C _____
 - c. A C _____ C _____
 - d. A R _____ C _____
 - e. An O _____ C _____
5. Into this dark and sinful place, Paul started a church.
What was the process?
 - i. He started with a N _____ of ____ M ____
 - ii. He moved to a S _____ for ____ M _____
 - iii. He move to the L _____ H ____ of T _____ for ____ Y _____
6. By reading Acts 19:9 – 12 consider the level of commitment required by Paul and his disciples; and consider what was the result of that commitment.

7. What was the consequence of those results? Read Acts 19:23 – 27

8. What do you think of when you hear someone referred to as a 'saint'.

9. So, 'you are a saint in Ephesus' – that is your first identity;
but your second identity is that you are also 'Faithful in Christ Jesus'

Read and consider all of the following verses to discover a common thread.

Ephesians 1: verses 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, & 13; also Ephesians, 2:6–7; and verses 10, 13, 21, 22; 3:6; 4:21; 5:8 and 6:10

What is that thread - that oft repeated phrase?

10. Read and consider Romans 8:9b, and 2 Corinthians 13:5

Final Thoughts

Scripture clearly teaches that we do live in two worlds.
We have our feet firmly planted on the earth,
but at the same time we are living out of our Union with Christ,
and fulfilling the agenda of heaven here on earth.

Every true Christian is a 'saint' by virtue of that fact
that we are 'set apart for Jesus Christ'

Yes, YOU are a 'saint'.
You may not be a good one yet
because God is still ironing out all your kinks,
but by the New Testament interpretation
you ARE a 'saint'.

You recognize the realities of living in this world,
but you also recognize that you are 'set apart to God'.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians – Resources & Responsibilities Part 2 – Living In Two Worlds Ephesians 1:1 - 2

1. Paul introduces his readers as:
Saints in Ephesus
Faithful in Christ
2. They have 2 **Identities**
They have 2 **Addresses**
They belong to 2 **Spheres** - In Ephesus and in Christ
3. a. We live in the everyday world - our place of residence.
b. We live in Spiritual Union of being 'in Christ'
4. a. A **Long Way from Jerusalem**
b. A **Political Centre**
c. A **Commercial Centre**
d. A **Religious Centre**
e. An **Occult Centre**
5. The process was:
 - i. He started with a **Nucleus of 12 Men**
 - ii. He moved to a **Synagogue for 3 Months**
 - iii. He move to the **Lecture Hall of Tyrannus for 2 Years**
6. The commitment was DAILY - not just on the Sabbath or Sundays or special nights of the week.
The result was that 'ALL Jews and Greeks who lived in the Province of Asia heard the word of the Lord'.
7. There was a huge negative response. When God is at work, there will always be opposition.
8. Is a 'saint' someone who has somehow earned that special designation by some institutional religion? Is a 'saint' a nice, kind person who helps other people?

To be a 'saint' means '**to be separated, set apart**'
No-one 'deserves to be a 'saint', and you most definitely cannot earn sainthood.
Make no mistake; you are a 'saint' in the midst of this evil world in which we live.
9. That we are '**in Christ**'
10. Christ lives in us by His Spirit, and so we come to be 'in Christ'.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 3 – Chosen In Christ Ephesians 1:3 - 14

1. The idea of 'predestination' and that we have been 'chosen' is a problem for many Christians. There is something about that that somehow doesn't seem fair. In this study we will shine some light on that.
Read and consider Ephesians 1:3 - 14

2. Charles asks: is there a 'Theory of Everything for the Christian Life?'
Read and consider Ephesians 1:3 and identify the 3 important points.

3. So, is there anything missing?

4. Read the following scripture and identify the 'spiritual blessings 'in Christ'

- i. Ephesians 1:4 _____
- ii. Ephesians 1:5 _____
- iii. Ephesians 1:7 _____
- iv. Ephesians 1:9 _____
- v. Ephesians 1:11 _____
- vi. Ephesians 1:13 _____

5. What does this word 'chosen' mean?

- a. I _____ was chosen. Read and consider:
Isaiah 45:4; Acts 13:17; Romans 9:11
- b. C _____ was chosen. Read and consider:
Luke 9:35' 1 Peter 2:4' Isaiah 42:1
- c. The T _____ A _____ were chosen. Read and consider:
Luke 6:12 – 13' Acts 9:14
- d. The C _____ was chosen. Read and consider:
Romans 8:33 Ephesians 1:4

6. Having established what it means to be chosen, and why, what does it mean to be 'predestined'? Read again and consider Ephesians 1:4 – 5 and verse 11.

Predestination concerns our D _ _ _ _ _

7. i. What then does Ephesians 1:5 tell us? _____

ii. What then does Ephesians 1:11 tell us? _____

iii. What then does Romans 8:29 - 30 tell us? _____

iv. What then does Romans 8:30 tell us? _____

Final Thoughts

Do you know how you come to be 'in Christ?'
Read and consider again Ephesians 1:13.

Here is the pattern:
You heard
You believed
You were sealed
You are guaranteed an inheritance.

**You have become one of God's Chosen People,
on a Mission with God
to be a means of fulfilling His purpose
and agenda for our world.**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 3 – Chosen In Christ Ephesians 1:3 - 14

1. This was originally written as one long 202 word sentence
2.
 - i. We have 'every spiritual blessing' [all embracing]
 - ii. 'In the heavenly realms' [the whole cosmos]
 - iii. In Christ [the source + sufficient one]
3. No – nothing at all!
Consider this: God has nothing to give us outside of Christ.
He has everything to give us in Christ.
4.
 - i. Ephesians 1:4 He chose us in Him.
 - ii. Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to be adopted as His sons.
 - iii. Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption.
 - v. Ephesians 1:9 He has made known to us the mystery of His will.
 - v. Ephesians 1:11 We are chosen
 - vi. Ephesians 1:13 Marked in Him with a seal
5.
 - a. **ISRAEL** was chosen in the Old Testament as a means of God accomplishing His work, ultimately leading to Christ.
 - b. **CHRIST** was chosen under the New Covenant, as God's means to accomplish His work in the New Testament.
 - c. The **TWELVE APOSTLE** [Disciples] were chosen to carry on the message of Jesus.
 - d. The **CHURCH** was chosen to accomplish His work in the present day.
6. Predestination concerns our **DESTINY** as Christians.
It is NOT about who should or should not become Christians.
It is about the future.
7.
 - i. You are predestined to be adopted as His sons.
 - ii. You are predestined according to the plan.
 - iii. You are predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son.
 - iv. You are predestined to be Called, Justified, Glorified.

If you are a Christian, you are on a journey that is predestined.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 4 – Prayer For The Person Who Has Everything Ephesians 1:15 - 23

1. Read and consider Ephesians 1:15 – 23

Ask yourself this question: How do you pray?

2. If we believe, as the scripture says, that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ, then why do we need to pray?

Paul prays, not that they might R _____ something,
but that they might K ___ something.

Read verses 17, 18a, 18b and 19

3. Knowing Christ better is only possible by the work of God in our hearts and experience.

A P _____ can't give people this.

C _____ can't give people this.

Only G ___ H _____ can give this!

4. Some things can only be known by R _____

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 - 10

5. The big question is:
What is it you look for that only God can give?

Are you praying about what is H ___ A _____, H ___ P _____?

Or are you praying about your W _____, N _____, and C _____?

6. When Paul begins this prayer he begins in verse 15 with the words,
“For this reason ...” What is that reason? – what are the truths that he has just told them.

i. v.17 ...That you may k ___ H ___ b _____.

7. How do you ‘know Him better’?

a. By O _____ Psalm 19:1 – 2

b. By M _____ Philemon 2:5 and Isaiah 26:3

c. By R _____ Ephesians 1:17, 1 Corinthians 2:14
Matthew 16:15 – 17, 1 Corinthians 12:3

Back to question 6

ii. v.18a That you may know the things to which He has called you.

8. How does Paul treat hope?

Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 5:2; 2 Corinthians 1:10
Galatians 5:5; Colossians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:8
Titus 1:2; 1 Corinthians 15:19

Back to question 6

iii. v.18b ... That you may know ...
the R_____ of H___ G_____ I_____ in the Son.

iv. v.19 ... That you may know ...
H___ I_____ G_____ P_____.

What kind of power?

R_____ Power Ephesians 1:19b – 20a

R_____ Power Ephesians 1:19 - 23

Final Thoughts

The thrust of Paul's prayer is that we **Know Christ**.

Know the HOPE we have in Him.
Know the INHERITANCE He has in us.
Know the expression of His POWER

Do you know these things?

Are you growing in these things?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 4 – Prayer For The Person Who Has Everything Ephesians 1:15 - 23

1. Along with the question “How do you pray?” you should also ask: “Why do you Pray?” and “What do you pray for?”
2. Paul prays, not that they might **RECEIVE** something, but that they might **KNOW** something.
3. A **PREACHER** can't give people this.
CHURCH can't give people this.
Only **GOD HIMSELF** can give this!
4. Some things can only be known by **REVELATION**
5. Are you praying about what is **HIS AGENDA, HIS PURPOSE**
Or are you praying about your **WANTS, NEEDS,** and **COMFORTS?**
6. i. v.17 ...That you may **know Him better**. This is the key to the Christian life.
7. How do you 'know Him better'?
 - a. By **Observation**
 - b. By **Meditation**
 - c. By **Revelation**

Back to question 6

- ii. v.18a That you may **know the hope** to which He has called you.
We all put our hope in **something**.
Hope is the object in which we place our confidence.
8. Paul treats 'hope' as one of the great qualities of the gospel.

Hope is the confident anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises and purposes, in this life and beyond.

Back to question 6 ...

- iii. v.18b ... That you may know ...
the **riches of His glorious inheritance** in the Son.

It is easy to become preoccupied with 'our inheritance',
and forget the fact that HE has an inheritance too!

Our inheritance is Christ.
His inheritance is YOU.

iv. v.19 ... That you may know **His incomparably great power.**

What kind of power **RESURRECTION** Power Ephesians 1:19b – 20a
REIGNING Power Ephesians 1:19 - 23

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 5 – From Death To Life Ephesians 2:1 - 10

This was a relatively short message, so it will be a short study.

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10
What is the contrast between the P ___ and the P _____ ?
2. What WERE they without Christ.
 - i. They were D ___ Ephesians 2:1: 1 Timothy 5:6
 - ii. They were D _____ Ephesians 2:2
 - iii. They were D _____ Ephesians 2:3
3. What they ARE in Christ. Read again Ephesians 2:4-5
 - i. They are R _____ v.5
4. If the antidote to DEATH is LIFE
What is the antidote to DISOBEDIENCE ?

Back to question 3

- ii. They are R _____ V.10
- iii. They were R _____ v.8

Final Thoughts

We are by nature dead, disobedient and doomed.
Something had to happen to change it.

We are no longer doomed under the wrath of God!

Because we are 'saved' through faith, we are:

Saved from a state of DEATH to being ALIVE
Saved from a life of DISOBEDIENCE to a life of OBEDIENCE
Saved from a condition that is doomed, TO BEING saved
To be SAVED is to be SAFE.

End by reading:
Ephesians 2:4-6

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 5 – From Death To Life Ephesians 2:1 - 10

1. What is the contrast between the **PAST** and the **PRESENT**?

The contrast is: Where they **were** without Christ.
 Where they **are** in Christ

Either: Where we WERE is what we STILL ARE

Or: What we ARE is what we HAVE BECOME through transformation.

2. i. They were **DEAD**
ii. They were **DISOBEDIENT**

They followed the ways of the world.
They followed the ruler of the Kingdom of the air.
Separation from God created a vacuum that had to be filled.

- iii. They were **DOOMED**
3. i. They are **RAISED** v.5
 God makes us alive in Christ. Read also 1 John 5:11-12

4. The antidote to disobedience is **OBEDIENCE**.

Back to question 3

- ii. They are **REDIRECTED** v.10
 Read also Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:5-6
 Ephesians 4:1, 4:24 and 4:31-32
- iii. They were **RESCUED** v.8-9

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 6 – Breaking Down Barriers Ephesians 2:11 - 22

1. Read Ephesians 2:11 – 22
Give special attention to the key verse; verse 22
The Two Things we will look at in this study are:
The D _____ of D _____
The D _____ of U _____
2. A. **The Dilemma of Disunity**
There was understandable H _____ between the J _____ and the
G _____
3. There were, of course, D _____ between the Jews and the Gentiles,
but those had become D _____
4. There are L _____ D _____ between peoples
that become I _____ D _____ between them.
5. Here are some of those divisions in today's society.
A _____ L _____
G _____ C _____
R _____ A _____ / S _____
6. Paul's purpose was not to just highlight the Division,
but also the R _____
7. B. **The Dynamic of Unity**
Read and consider again verse 13, 15 and 16
D _____ and F _____ is at its root - a S _____ thing
that can only be rectified at the Cross of Christ, with the Blood of Christ, by being *in Christ*.
8. Reconciliation between people begins with reconciliation with God.
Read and consider: Verse 14, verse 15 and verse 17 Do you see the sequence?
9. The beginning of R _____ is R _____ to God.
10. This is an out-working of the gospel in a crucial area of human life.
If we are R _____ to G _____, we will have the R _____
to be R _____ to O _____.

Final Thoughts

Legitimate differences should be celebrated,
But when *differences* become *divisions*,
they become *destructive*
Causing Disunity.

**It is our personal and corporate alienation from God
that causes our alienation from each other.**

Putting God back into human experience
becomes the basis for restoring unity.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 6 – Breaking Down Barriers Ephesians 2:11 - 22

1. The two things we will look at in this study are:
The **Dilemma** of **Disunity**
The **Dynamic** of **Unity**
2. There was understandable **HOSTILITY** between the **JEWS** and the **GENTILES**
3. There were, of course, **DIFFERENCES** between the Jews and the Gentiles, but those had become **DIVISIONS**.

The differences between the Jews and Gentiles were of God, so they were excusable.

But the divisions between the Jews and the Gentiles were NOT of God, so they were inexcusable.

4. There are **Legitimate Difference** between peoples hat become **Illegitimate Divisions** between them.
5. Some of those divisions in today's society are:
AGISM
GENDER
RACE
LANGUAGE
CULTURE
ABILITY / SKILL
6. Paul's purpose was not to just highlight the Division, but also the **RECONCILIATION**.
7. **DIVISION** and **FRAGMENTATION** is at its root - a **SPIRITUAL** thing that can only be rectified at the Cross of Christ, with the Blood of Christ, by being *in Christ*.
8. The sequence is: He Himself *is our peace*.
He is *making peace*.
He came and *preached peace*.
Now read and consider Ephesians 2:19-21 and then 22
9. The beginning of **RECONCILIATION** is **RESTORATION** to God.

This is not a philosophy or a concept or just a good idea;
This is the TRUTH revealed to us by God.
10. If we are **RECONCILED** to **GOD**, we will have the **RESOURCES** to be RECONCILED to OTHERS.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 7 – Solving A Mystery Ephesians 3:1 - 13

1. Do you recall what types of books are the best selling books in the world after the Bible and the Dictionary?

2. In this Study we will look at 4 things:

- i. U _____ the Mystery
- ii. U _____ the M _____ of the Mystery
- iii. U _____ the M _____ of the Mystery
- iv. U _____ the S _____ of the Mystery

3. I. Understanding The Mystery Ephesians 3:2 – 6

The mystery that Paul is talking of is something that is R _____ that has been M _____ from the revelation of the O _ T _____.

4. This revelation is not a mystery to us; but it was R _____ and R _____ to the Jews and Gentiles at that time.

5. Why was it such a shock to the Jews and the Gentiles? Read and consider Ephesians 2:11-12

6. Previously the Jews were on the I _____ of God's C _____. And the Gentiles were on the O _____

7. The Jews are now no longer exclusively the 'C _____ P _____'. There is now a new "G _____ C _____"

8. Read again verse 6 and see the key words:

- Heirs T _____ with Israel.
- Members T _____ of one body, and
- Sharers T _____ in the promise in Christ Jesus.

9. ii. Understanding the Ministry of the Mystery Ephesians 3:7-9
Reacquaint yourself with these verses. What is the main point here?

-
10. Everything that I am not ...
Read: 1 Corinthians 15:9-10; 2 Corinthians 12:11; 1 Timothy 1:16
11. God has to reveal to us our inadequacies so that our focus is not on ourselves, but rather H ___ S _____ in us - i.e., H ___ G _____
He exchanges our W _____ for His S _____
He exchanges our W _____ for His W _____
He exchanges our N _____ for His E _____
12. iii. Understanding the Magnitude of the Mystery Ephesians 3:10-11
It is a sobering thought that we are now O _ D _____ to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.
13. Read and consider Ephesians 6:12
14. What are these unseen eyes in the heavenly realms seeing?
-
-

15. iv. Understanding the Suffering of the Mystery Ephesians 3:13
Read also Acts Chapter 21 - 28

Final Thoughts

The 'mystery' is therefore found in Ephesians 3:6, 7 & 10.
But we must not be discouraged [v. 13];
and all of this should drive us to our knees in prayer
as we engage in the most exciting activity of all time.

We will pick this up next time.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 7 – Solving A Mystery Ephesians 3:1 - 13

1. Sherlock Holmes Mystery books that currently sell over 5 millions copies each year.
2.
 - i. **UNDERSTANDING** the Mystery
 - ii. **UNDERSTANDING** the **MINISTRY** of the Mystery
 - iii. **UNDERSTANDING** the **MAGNITUDE** of the Mystery
 - iv. **UNDERSTANDING** the **SUFFERING** of the Mystery

3. The mystery that Paul is talking of is something that is **REVEALED** that has been **MISSING** from the revelation of the **OLD TESTAMENT**.

Read again verses 4 – 6. What then is the mystery?

4. This revelation is not a mystery to us; but it was **REVOLUTIONARY** and **RADICAL** to the Jews and Gentiles at that time.
5. The world was divided into 2 groups. This revealed mystery changed all that.
6. Previously the Jews were on the **INSIDE** of God's **CONVENANTS**. And the Gentiles were on the **OUTSIDE**.

But now this has all changed. Read Genesis 12:2-2 and Psalm 2:8

7. The Jews are now no longer exclusively the '**CHOSEN PEOPLE**'. There is now a new "**GLOBAL COMMUNITY**".

Everyone who is 'in Christ', whether Jews or Gentiles, is heir to all the promises of God.

8. That key word is the word **TOGETHER**.
9. The main point here is this: **Everything I am not – Jesus Christ is**.
10. Did Paul suffer from a poor self-image?
No, God has to bring us to this place, and keep us in this place.
Any ideas about our own credentials disqualifies us from fruitfulness.

11. God has to reveal to us our inadequacies so that our focus is not on ourselves, but rather **HIS SUFFICIENCY** in us - i.e. **HIS GRACE**.
He exchanges our **WEAKNESS** for His **STRENGTH**
He exchanges our **WORTHLESSNESS** for His **WORTH**
He exchanges our **NOTHINGNESS** for His **EVERYTHING**
This is the key to ministry, the key to fruitfulness

12. It is a sobering thought that we are now **ON DISPLAY** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

Consider the full implications of this.

13. We are being watched by unseen eyes.
14. a. They are seeing God uniting humanity in Christ.
b. They are seeing God working through frail, weak people by pouring His grace into them.

Through us God is demonstrating His wisdom to rule in heavenly realms.

15. Paul's entire ministry involved suffering.
The Jewish hierarchy, who loved their privileged positions, hated what Paul was teaching.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 8 – Praying For The Fullness Of God Ephesians 3:14 - 21

1. Read Ephesians 3:14-21, then ask yourself some questions about prayer.
2. For this study we will look at 3 questions relating to Paul's prayers here in this passage.
 - i. W __ is he praying to?
 - ii. W ___ is he praying for?
 - iii. W - - does he need to pray about it anyway?
3. i. Who is he praying to? Read verses 14 & 15
He is praying to the F _____ of H _____ and E _____
4. There are two important things expressed here that we can learn from.
 - i. Paul's P _____ of H _____
 - ii. God's P _____ of S _____ and S _____
5. ii. What is Paul Praying For? Verse 16
Simply in one word S _____
6. The more we explore the truths of God, the more we realize our need for
D _____ S _____
7. We should never read the Bible as a 'To Do' list.
We should read it as the A _____ of G __ in our lives and in the world.
8. D _____ E _____ needs D _____ E _____
D _____ S _____ needs D _____ S _____
9. iii. Why does Paul need to pray about this anyway? Read again v.19
How can you know something that S _____ K _____?
10. It is important that we understand that there are some things we cannot know only by knowledge. If our dealings with God are only on a rational level then
R _____, T _____, L _____ and U _____, will eventually 'hit a wall' and you will not be able to move beyond that.
11. There are things that only God can R _____.
These are E _____ and come from God alone.

Final Thoughts

An important note concerning the translation of verse 16a

The NIV translates the word 'kata' as being 'out of', whereas the KJV and ESV more correctly translate that word as 'according to'

For a millionaire to give 'out of' his riches implies that he can give any amount out of what he has... so he could just give \$1.00 'out of' his millions; and his wealth is limited.

But for a millionaire to give 'according to' his riches means that the size of his giving will be proportionate to the extent of his wealth; and God's wealth is 'unsearchable'.

The difference is highly significant.

Read also: Ephesians 3:8 and Philemon 4:19

Finally, we need to clearly understand that there are things you will never receive in Church.

By just attending church and/or a bible study there are things you will never know, nor experience.

You have to do business with God Himself – Alone!

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 1 – Resources & Responsibilities Part 8 – Praying For The Fullness Of God Ephesians 3:14 - 21

1.
 - i. What exactly IS prayer?
 - ii. Why do we pray?
 - iii. Who do we pray to?
 - iv. What do we pray for?
 - v. Do we really need to pray?
 - vi. How often do we pray?
 - vii. How often should we pray?
 - viii. Where do we pray?
 - ix. Is there a place of prayer or a posture of prayer that brings better results?
 - x. Do we NEED to get others to pray for us?

2.
 - i. **WHO** is he praying to?
 - ii. **WHAT** is he praying for?
 - iii. **WHY** does he need to pray about it anyway?

3. He is praying to the **FATHER** of **HEAVEN** and **EARTH**.

4.
 - i. Paul's **POSTURE** of **HUMILITY**
 - ii. God's **POSITION** of **SUPREMACY** and **SOVEREIGNTY**

We come before God in *humility*, not *demanding*, but *submitting*.
If we come demanding we have not come *trusting*.

So we come in humility, but not as beggars, for we are confident that the Lord will give us '*according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus*'.

5.
 - ii. Paul is praying for **STRENGTH**

6. The more we explore the truths of God, the more we realize our need for **DIVINE STRENGTH**

7. We should read it as the **AGENDA** of **GOD** in our lives and in the world, to be accomplished *by the enabling of His strength* within us.

8. **DIVINE ENTERPRISE** needs **DIVINE ENABLING**
DIVINE STRATEGY needs **DIVINE STRENGTH**

Never undertake one without praying for the other.

9. How can you know something that **SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE**?

10. If our dealings with God are only on a rational level then **READING, THINKING, LISTENING** and **UNDERSTANDING** will eventually 'hit a wall' and you will not be able to move beyond that. So, what then is needed?

11. There are things that only God can **REVEAL**
These are **EXPERIENTIAL** and come from God alone.