

INTRO SERIES: INTO THE MYSTERY.

I LOVE A GOOD MYSTERY/ ADVENTURE! GOONIES! (1985)
All happening beneath the streets of their every day, mundane lives.

Paul weaves the greek word (“mysterion” / mystery) into Ephesians more than any other NT book and second only in the entire Bible to Daniel.

7 times to be exact. Ch's 1, 3, 5, 6.

- the mystery of [God's] will
- the mystery that had been hidden for ages but has now been made known
- the mystery of Christ
- the mystery of the gospel
- the mystery of marriage
- CH 6:19— the mystery Paul has been sent to reveal to the world.

WHY??

CS. Lewis *“Every fresh discovery, far from dissipating, deepens the mystery”*

He observes this about the natural order (galaxy; atoms) & applies it to God.

The more God shows us about himself... the more mystery we discover.

1) There is a mystery about God... we know him... BUT we never stop getting to know him better and better...

Which is why Paul prays 1:17 *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” AND THAT “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...”*

PAUL wants to fan the flame of WONDER and stir up our WORSHIP

2) In 62 AD- Ephesus was infested with Mystery Cult Religions... Luring people with that whole “hey- if you join us you’ll know things no one else does! You’ll be on the inside!”

Paul is saying, “hey- if you really want a mystery- if you really want to be in on what’s really going on- let me tell you about the “mysterion of Christ.”

Mystery is a great word for us today because it prepares us for where Paul wants to take us:

- Back before the creation of the world- where it’s just God and eternity
- Beyond the veil of the heavenly realms where spiritual forces of evil lie
- The heavenly realms where we are seated with Christ

- Deep into the hidden truth about who you really are/ why you were born
- Forward into our once hidden but now revealed destiny.

TODAY— just a peak behind the curtain of this mystery— **THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL.**

LET’S PRAY.

READ Eph 1:8-10 *With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—*

“to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”

Let’s talk about this UNITY & and then the “ALL THINGS”

UNITY: To restore everything into the FLOW of God’s perfect and good WILL.

FLOW= A secular idea —> “the state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter; the experience itself is so enjoyable that people will do it even at great cost, for the sheer sake of doing it.”

This longing for joy... this is our soul’s homing beacon back to God’s will.

Because God’s will is the most loving, wise, joy-filled outcome in every situation.

This UNITY- this in-sync-ness with the flow of God’s will at every second with every ounce of our being is what God created us to live in.

The Bible calls this ETERNAL LIFE: What Paul calls in 2 Cor8:2 “overflowing joy”

ALL THINGS... Paul is helping us see just how big this transformation is! Through Ephesians he’s going to bring us through every level from the heavens right down to the earth.

The heavenly realms (5X’s) throughout book. The spiritual realm where Spiritual forces of evil war against God’s will.

The entire created order- nature- where we see sickness, death and violence.

Within the Church— where Jew’s and Gentiles are being reconciled together and brought into unity... marriage... family... community.

Right down to you and Jesus— made one together through the bond of the Holy Spirit.

Eph 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.