



Saint James AME Church

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Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Theresa Andrews, Minister to Women

First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor

Tuesdays at 6:15 PM

May 26, 2020

Dr. Mary Williams, Facilitator

Subject: The Eternal Purpose of God for the Christian Believer

Book: Ephesians Chapter 3: 1-11

Ephesians 3:1-11 (NIV)

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the

Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in

the heavenly realms,¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Subject of Consideration:

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison between A.D. 60 and 63. Many biblical scholars believe that Paul spent two or three years in Ephesus. He was successful with spreading the gospel. Paul shares some rich biblical truths in Ephesians. He wanted believers to mature in Christ Jesus. In order to live out our lives victoriously, we must remember and understand who we are in Christ Jesus.

In Chapter 3, the eternal purpose of God for the believer is critical. Paul is a steward of God's grace. He serves Christ even as a prisoner in Rome. Paul describes the mystery of the church revealed by the Holy Spirit. The church consists of Jewish and Gentile believers that become one through the death of Christ Jesus. Paul also demonstrates his humility by saying that he was given grace to fulfill his purpose in Christ. He shows his great passion for ministering to the Gentile believers by preaching the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Questions to Consider:

1. Why do you think Paul had such a great passion for ministry?
2. During this Pandemic, how are you relating to Paul's passion?
3. After this Pandemic, how can you better serve in your local church?

Homework Assignment

Reflect on how can we hear from God better.

Pray about our intimacy with God and pressing into God's presence.

Read Ephesians 3:12-21