

## **Feb 9/25 – Small Group Questions**

### **Ephesians 3:1-13 Living out of an Alternative Reality**

1. Read Acts 21:17 – 22:29 for background on why Paul is in prison. How do these verses help us to understand Paul? His mission amongst the gentiles?

### **Read Ephesians 3:1-13**

2. In his suffering Paul looks to Jesus – I am a prisoner of Christ Jesus. What would be the fruit of putting our focus on Jesus in the midst of our suffering?
3. How does he see his suffering being for the benefit of the Ephesians?
4. Paul uses a word for suffering that means crushing pressure, the pressure that comes from clashing kingdoms. When the kingdom of Jesus meets the kingdom of this world there will be a clash. This is the kind of suffering that followers of Jesus can expect. Where do you see this type of suffering in your life? Our world?
5. (4,8,12) Paul in these verse displays both deep confidence and humility. From the surrounding verses where does his confidence and humility come from?
5. Paul's confidence ultimately lies in the mystery. The biblical word mystery – and the English word mystery mean almost the opposite. In English we think of mystery as something we have to discover because it's hidden. In the Biblical sense a mystery is something revealed because we would never discover it on our own. So for Paul this mystery has been revealed and clearly can be seen by all. What is the mystery he wants his readers to see? (See Ephesians 1:9-10). What impact would having such confidence in this mystery have upon us as we navigate life?
6. (10) What does Paul say is the purpose of the church in our world? What does this look like practically?
7. (8-9) What does Paul see as his role in making that a reality for the church? What does that say to us about how we can live into God's purpose for the church?