

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

October 5, 2025

Series: Anchored, a study in Ephesians

Title: Christ's Plan Revealed

Passage: Ephesians 3:1-13

READ: Ephesians 3:1-13

- Based on Ephesians 3:1-6, what is the mystery of Christ? How would you explain it by using the words and descriptions from this passage only? Why do you think there is confusion about this still today? Why is this good news? (**LEADERS NOTE:** *see the notes below for some additional commentary as you prepare*)
- Ephesians 3:6 says we are “*members together of one body.*” What implications does this have for us today? What problems might occur if RCF ends up with more and more people coming who don't get involved in serving (formally or informally)? What benefits come to a church where more and more people serve? How does thinking of ourselves as “members together” impact what we “expect” from our church? What are ways our group has served one another well? What more could we do?
- Ephesians 3:7-9, what strikes you about how Paul describes himself? In what ways is it inspiring? What is his self-identified purpose? Do you have a stated purpose or family values or other centering statements? What are they? How might they help? How informed by scripture are they?
- Ephesians 3:10-13, What is the result now of the mystery being made known? What is the result for us as Christians? What is our responsibility as Christians?
- Reflecting on what was studied, what is one thing this week you are going to put into practice that I can ask you about next week?

Commentary on “the mystery of Christ.”

Elsewhere in scripture, Paul insists that his gospel message is no innovation. It was promised in advance through the prophets in the holy scriptures (Rom. 1:2); it was preached beforehand to Abraham (Gal. 3:8). That faith was the principle by which God would justify men and women, Gentiles as well as Jews, was not a truth concealed in earlier generations. It is a truth attested, according to Paul, in the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Additionally, the Bible had already taught that God would seek out non-Jews to join his people (Rom 16:25-26; **Is 19:25** *The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance.”*); King David and others had welcomed non-Jews into the fellowship of God (e.g., 2 Sam 6:10–11; 8:18; 15:18–22; 18:2; 20:23; 24:18–24; 1 Chron 11:41, 46; 18:17). But to be full members of the covenant, male non-Jews had to be circumcised; by this period, men and women were also usually required to immerse themselves in water to become ritually

pure. But the coming of *Christ had made it clear to his *apostles and prophets that by faith in Christ everyone could now approach God on the same terms. What then was the mystery revealed? It is the equal footing that Gentiles and Jews now have together as the people of God. God's blessing of the Gentiles would involve the obliteration of the old line of demarcation which separated them from Jews and the incorporation of Gentile believers together with Jewish believers, without any discrimination, in the new, comprehensive community of God's chosen people.