week 5

Studying

 THE CHURCHAAA

Together

 [a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading - EPHESIANS 3:1-13

Keep in Mind

“Mystery”, as Paul uses it here several times, means something that God chooses to hide. It is not something that can be discovered by investigation. It has to be revealed by God, and that revelation is what Paul is celebrating here.

Did You Notice?

 1. How did God reveal the mystery of Christ?

 To whom did He reveal it? (see 3:5)

 2. What is the mystery of Christ? (3:6)

 3. What was God’s intention in revealing it

 when He did? (3:10-11)

What Do You Think?

 1. In light of the cosmic importance of the

 church to God, do you need to adjust any of

 your attitudes or behaviors towards the

 church?

Day 2

Reading - EPHESIANS 3:14-21

Keep in Mind

Paul loved the churches of Christ, and that love translated into consistent prayers for their strength and maturity. Here he reiterates what is a constant theme in the Scriptures: the preeminence of love.

Did You Notice?

 1. How does God provide power to His

 people? (see 3:16)

 2. What two outcomes did Paul want to see

 from their empowerment? (3:17-18)

 3. Paul prayed that they would be filled to

 what measure? (3:19)

 4. Paul wanted God to receive glory in

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:21)

What Do You Think?

In what ways does God receive glory in our church and through our church? Are there ways we might be limiting the glory He receives in us?

Day 3

Reading - EPHESIANS 4:1-6

Keep in Mind

You may have noticed that unity is a major theme of this letter. Here Paul outlines the source as well as the obligation of the church’s unity.

Did You Notice?

 1. What kind of life did Paul urge the disciples

 to live? (see 4:1)

 2. What attitudes and behaviors are require to

 maintain true unity and peace in the

 church body? (4:2-3)

 3. List all the “one”s that we share as a

 church. (4:4-6)

What Do You Think?

Can you think of any disunity or lack of peace in this or any church that *wasn’t* the result of someone’s failure to do as Paul wrote in 4:1-3?

Day 4

Reading - EPHESIANS 4:7-16

Keep in Mind

While Paul emphasized what we all have in common in the last section, here he highlights how our different roles and gifts also lead to unity in the body of Christ.

Did You Notice?

 1. What roles did Christ give to some in the

 church body to equip the whole body?

 (see 4:11-12)

 2. For what are the people of Christ being

 equipped? (4:12)

 3. What are three ultimate goals Jesus has for

 His church? (4:13)

 4. How does the church grow up, and who

 takes part in the work? (4:15-16

What Do You Think?

Are our church leaders effectively equipping the people of Christ to do His work? Do we have enough leaders doing the equipping?

Day 5

Reading - EPHESIANS 4:17-32

Keep in Mind

The disciples in Ephesus were predominantly Gentiles who used to worship false gods and live by pagan norms and values. The difference in their lives when they came to Jesus was enormous!

Did You Notice?

 1. What three things were the disciples taught

 when they heard about Jesus? (4:22-24)

 2. List the things that do not belong in the church

 (e.g. “falsehood”) and then those things that do

 belong (e.g. “speaking truthfully) (4:25-32)

 3. What should be the outcome of our work?

 (4:28) Of our speech? (4:29)

What Do You Think?

In light of the lists you made for #2 above, what are the areas of strength and weakness in yourself? In our church family?