

Ephesians 3:1-13

Paul continues his discussion about the church in Ephesians 3:1-13, following up on last week's passage (6, 9-10). But what does he mean by the church? In verse 13, even the hardships for the church are considered glorious. This emphasizes the incredible glory of the church.

Today, as we explore the passage together, let's delve into what makes the church glorious and why it is referred to as a place of glory.

Firstly, the church is a glorious place as a mystery of God.

The term "mystery" is mentioned in today's passage, and the Greek word 'musterion' has the same origin as the English word 'mystery.' It signifies something valuable and mysterious, kept hidden from others and revealed only to specific individuals. Paul describes the church as a mysterious secret of God within the narrative of the gospel. In verse 3, God revealed this mystery to Paul, allowing him to understand, as stated in verse 4. While it was unknown in the Old Testament era, through apostles, prophets, and the Holy Spirit's work, the church at the center of the gospel became known. Paul, through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit's guidance, realized the essence of the church in the grand picture of the gospel. The church is truly a mysterious and awe-inspiring place.

May your understanding of the church as a mystery of God bring blessings in the name of the Lord. I pray in the name of the Lord that your presence here is filled with gratitude and a sense of glory.

Secondly, the church is a glorious place of experiencing God.

In verse 10, the passage suggests that the church is where the wisdom of God is made known to the world. Additionally, in verse 12, it speaks of the church as the place where one approaches God. The church serves as a channel through which those who do not know God come to know Him and draw near to Him. Therefore, we come to know and experience God through the church. This is a remarkable occurrence.

Often, we lean towards individualistic faith, thinking that meeting people at church and having communion with God are separate from personal scripture reading and prayer. While personal communion with God is crucial, Jesus, in Matthew 18:20, said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Jesus is present with the church, and through the church, we experience the glory of God. The glory of God is abundant in the church. Your church is a place where you experience God's glory and showcase it to others.

Thirdly, the church is a glorious place where our dedication unfolds.

In today's passage, Apostle Paul emphasizes his role as a worker for the glorious church (2, 7). His divine mission was to pioneer and establish the church, and this brought him glory. In verse 8, he confesses, "Although 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." As mentioned in verse 13, even the trials and imprisonment for the sake of the church are considered glorious. Serving the church is a glorious task. Establishing and spreading the gospel through the church on this earth is a glorious undertaking.

The church is a glorious place. Today, Paul speaks of being imprisoned for the church as an honor. Knowing that the church is a place worthy of our dedication is a glory in itself.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"This 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." (Ephesians 3:6)

**Bible
Reading**

2/26(Mon)	2/27(Tue)	2/28(Wed)	2/29(Thur)	3/1(Fri)	3/2(Sat)	3/3(Sun)
Numbers 27-29	Numbers 30-31	Numbers 32-33	Numbers 34-36 Deut. 1	Deut. 2-3	Deut. 4	Deut. 5-7

QT

Quiet Time Passage

2/26(Mon)	2/27(Tue)	2/28(Wed)	2/29(Thur)	3/1(Fri)	3/2(Sat)	3/3(Sun)
Mark 15:16-23	Mark 15:24-32	Mark 15:33-47	Mark 16:1-8	Mark 16:9-20	Joel 1:1-12	Joel 1:13-20

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share something new you've realized or received through today's sermon.
2. How do you perceive the glory of the church?
3. Let's pray together, asking for the grace to witness the glory of the church.