

CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION - PHASE ONE
God's Building Plans for Kingdom People
From Ephesians Chapters 1 - 3

CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Unfolding the Plans God Has for Us - Ephesians 1:1-3
(June 22nd)

YOUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

Counting Your Blessings as a Christian Under Construction - Ephesians 1:3-10
(June 29th)

THE AMAZING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Celebrating the Life-Giving Work of the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 1:11-14
(July 6th)

THE KNOWLEDGE AND POWER OF CHRISTIANITY

Living Out the 1st Kingdom-Building Prayer of Ephesians - Ephesians 1:15-23
(July 13th)

BY GRACE...FOR WORKS

Being a Steward of What God Has Prepared in Advance for Us to Do -
Ephesians 2:1-10
(July 20th)

AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN

Bringing People Near Through Jesus - Ephesians 2:11-18
(July 27th)

HERE COMES THE CHURCH!

Seeing God's Great Picture of the Church of Jesus Christ - Ephesians 2:19-22
(August 3rd)

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES SOLVED!

Understanding the Church as the Focal Point of History - Ephesians 3:1-13
(August 10th)

UP THE STAIRCASE OF PRAYER

Walking Up the Staircase of the 2nd Kingdom-Building Prayer of Ephesians -
Ephesians 3:14-21
(August 17th)

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES SOLVED!

Understanding How the Church is the Focal Point of History
Ephesians 3:1-13
August 10, 2008
SV408

INTRODUCTION

Today's Mystery—and History—Lesson:
Ephesians 3:1-13

I. THE "MYSTERY" OF EPHESIANS 3 (v.1-6)

Meaning of the Word "Mystery":

A _____!

The "Mystery" in Verse 6:

*Through Christ, New and Eternal Life with God in His Family
Is Open to Everybody!*

Ephesians 3:6 (The Message)

The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT)

So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians — you are one in Christ Jesus.

John 3:16 (KJV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever** believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

II. THE “MYSTERY” IN A MOMENT OF HISTORY (v.7-9)

Acts 26:12-18

On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 About noon...as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. 14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” Then I asked, “Who are you, Lord?” “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” the Lord replied. 16”Now get up and stand on your feet. **I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.** 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. **I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them** from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

III. THE FOCAL POINT OF HISTORY (v. 10-13)

The Focal Point of History:

We, the _____ of _____!

IV. CHRIST’S INTENTION FOR US—HIS CHURCH:

A. To _____ the _____ of God
(v. 10-11)

Colossians 2:3

Christ...in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

B. To _____ People into a _____ with God
(v. 12)

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

C. To _____ Amid the _____ of God
(v. 13)

John 15:19-20

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: “No servant is greater than his master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

Philippians 1:29-30

For it has been **granted to you on behalf of Christ** not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Acts 9:15-16

Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name...**I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.**

Romans 8:17

Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, **if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**

CONCLUSION