

Date: May 3, 2020

Sermon Title: The Wonderful Mystery of Our Purpose

Speaker: Richard Smith

Scripture text(s): Ephesians 3: 1-10

- 1) How did Richard describe mysteries in terms of scripture?
- 2) Read Ephesians 3:1-10. Where is Paul while writing this? How is this significant to our understanding?
- 3) Richard gave us four mysteries from this passage. The first is the mystery of Jesus. Read Ephesians 3:4-5. To whom is this mystery revealed? Name some mysteries of Jesus using any scriptures you think of and discuss these.
- 4) The second mystery is the Church. Read Ephesians 3:6. Who makes up the Church? What is significant about Gentiles being a part of the Church?
- 5) From this passage, it says that Gentiles are partakers of the promise in Christ. What does this mean? How does this bring you encouragement?
- 6) The third mystery is Paul. Read Ephesians 3:2-3. Using this and other scriptures, why is Paul a mystery?
- 7) Richard gave us this quote, "The mighty power of God enables weak vessels to proclaim the glories of Christ with great effectiveness." Apply this to Paul's life. How did his life prove this? Think of people you know who have lived this out. What impact has it made on you and the world around them?
- 8) The fourth mystery is our audience. Read Ephesians 3:10. What is the meaning of "manifold"? Apply this definition to God's wisdom. How does this help you understand Him and his wisdom better?
- 9) From verse 10, through whom does the manifold wisdom of God come? To whom is God's wisdom being made known?
- 10) Richard shared this quote, "Every day, your life and words, together with the Church around the world, are preaching a cosmic sermon to powerful spiritual beings who crowd the atmosphere from earth to heaven." Discuss how does this impacts our relationship with God and man. How will your approach to preaching the gospel change knowing that it is being made "known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms"?

11) Richard talked about God using us to paint a tapestry and used a John Piper quote-- "Not one single stroke of your little brush is ever wasted. God is a wise painter. He doesn't make mistakes when he selects His brushes...putting your little brush in the hand of the invisible, infinitely wise omnipotent Painter is one of the best places on earth to be. This is worth living for." How is it possible for God to use us in this way? How does this bring you encouragement? Name some ways God has used you as a paintbrush.