

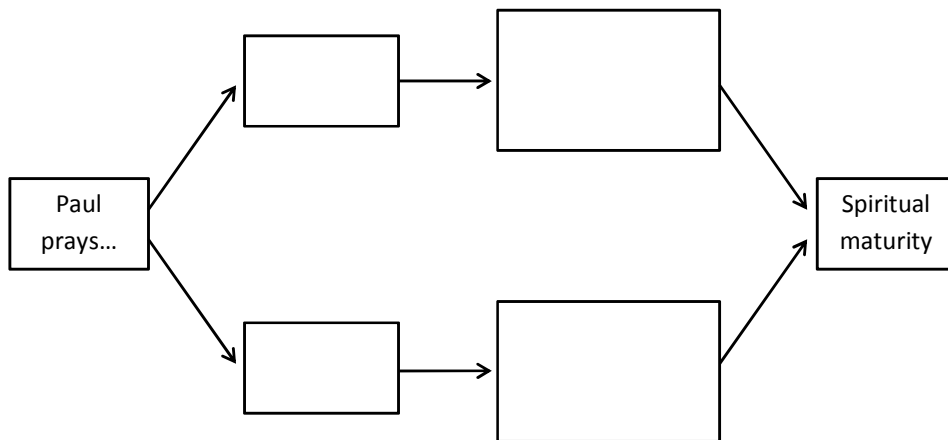
Introduction: Ephesians so far

1. God's secret plans in the ministry of Paul

2. A picture of the Christian life

Acts 9:15–16; Rom 8:16–18; 1 Pet 4:12–14; 2 Cor 1:3–7; Gal 6:17; Phil 3:10; Col 1:24–27; 2 Tim 2:10; 3:12.

3. Paul's prayer for the Ephesians



Ephesians study 4

God's Secret Plans

Forgiveness that transcends cultural barriers (part 2)



Summary so far

In Paul's letter to the Ephesian church we have learnt that Christians are...

Blessed to the max! (study 1)

because:

- they have been given a gift that silences boasting (study 2)
- and they have a forgiveness that transcends cultural barriers. (study 3)

Discuss

How does your culture view mixed marriages? What kinds of difficulties do they raise? (Spend some time exploring the problems created by cross cultural relationships.)

Read Ephesians 3:1–13.

Q. What was the mystery that God's Spirit revealed to Paul? (v6)

Q. Why was it hard for Jews to mix with Gentiles? What was the problem between the Jew and Gentile? (See also Acts 10:27–28.)

Q. How did the Gospel of Jesus motivate Paul to preach to the Gentiles? (v7–9)

Q. What purpose does God use the church for? (v10–12)

Application for us at FOCUS

Think of the different number of nationalities represented in FOCUS.

- a. What are some barriers which we need to overcome?
- b. How can we make progress in this area?

Read Ephesians 3:14–20.

Q. What are the reasons Paul prays? What motivates Paul to be a missionary? (v13–14)

Q. What does Paul pray for? (v16)

Q. What is the goal of this prayer?

Q. What would it take for you to do the following?

- a. Change your career path to tell others about Jesus full-time. **rating 1-10**
- b. Find your ultimate fulfilment and purpose through knowing Jesus and loving your neighbour. **rating 1-10**
- c. Give up your security and move to a foreign country to tell people about Jesus. **rating 1-10**
- d. Lower your standard of living to bring the Gospel to poorer people. **rating 1-10**