Course Catalogue

100: Freshman Introduction level
200: Sophomore second year level
300: Junior third year more advanced level
400: Senior level in depth courses
Discipleship 301: An Introduction to Suffering in the Christian Life

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Phil 3:10-11

100: Freshman: “Know Him”
200: Sophomore: “Power of His resurrection”
300: Junior: “Fellowship of His suffering”
400: Senior: “Like Him in His death”
Graduation: “Attain to resurrection!”
The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

Ch 3:1-13 Page 828

...pose of Him who works all things after the counsel of His will,
12 that we who first trusted in theLord Jesus Christ by the will of God have also faith...
13 In Him you also trust...
3 Life Lessons On Suffering From Eph 3:1-13  Pg 828

- **God Sometimes Works Through You For The Sake of Others**
- **God Doesn’t Always Reveal Everything He is Doing to You**
- **God Has An Eternal Purpose That Is Greater Than All of Us**
God Sometimes Works Through You For The Sake Of Others
Eph 3:10-11  Pg 828

• **Paul’s Situation:** A prisoner of the gospel
• **God’s Reason:** For the sake of you gentiles
• **The Equation:** “to me for you!”
The Equation At Work In Jesus Life

“Jesus suffered once for sin, the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God.”

1Peter 3:18
God Doesn’t Always Reveal Everything He Is Doing To You.
Eph 3:2-9

- Mystery
- Made known by revelation
- Revealed by Spirit
- Mystery Explained:
  Through the Church the gentiles are:
  > Heirs together
  > Members together
  > Sharers together
The “Mystery”

“...the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Colossians 1:26-27
The Church—"which in other ages was not made known" (Eph 3:5).
God Has An Eternal Purpose That Is Greater Than All Of Us.
Eph 3:10-13

- God’s intent
- God’s wisdom made known
- God’s eternal purpose

“The church becomes a mirror through which the bright ones of heaven (angels) behold the glory of God!”
God’s Eternal Purpose

Is Not...

Anthropocentric

But Is...

Theocentric
“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11
“Our cause (evil) is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do his (God’s) will looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and STILL obeys.”

C. S. Lewis
Screwtape Letters
3 Questions to Ask Yourself Today

• What is God doing THROUGH my struggles?

• Am I willing to trust God even when I don’t see or understand what He is doing?

• How is the Eternal Purpose of God being worked out through me?