*How using your **FREEDOM** to be a **PRISONER** can impact your life.*

Ephesians 3:1-13

"UR the Church" Part #2 Noah Largent 11/19/16

UR the CHURCH

studies from the book of Ephesians

Mystery

Often God's plans and work can't easily be seen or understood. Remember He is working all things out for His good purposes and for those who love Him.

Ephesians 3:6 "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."

Because God's work can be "Mysterious":

1. *Don't beat yourself up when you can't seem to figure out what God is doing in your life. -Genesis 37-50*
2. *Patience REALLY is a virtue! 1Cor. 13:4 & Gal. 5:22*
3. *Choose to obey even when you can't see how God is using it for His good.*

Community

God designed the Church community to be a place where people work together to win people to Jesus, where we can grow and serve together.

Ephesians 3:10 "His intent was that now, through the *church*, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms"

A commitment to community demonstrates:

1. *Your desire for personal growth.*
2. *That you take playing your part in the "body" seriously.*
3. *That you take God's plan for shaping the world seriously.*

"The value we place on something determines the hardship we are willing to endure for it" -NIV Application Commentary pg.171

Prisoner

When God is at the center of your life, no matter how your circumstances change, nothing will ever be able to diminish your reason for getting up in the morning.

Ephesians 3:6 For this reason I, Paul, the *prisoner* of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles.

Seriously? Is it possible that after years in prison Paul could still smile?

"Perspective is all-important. How we view and react to circumstances is more important than the circumstances themselves. Paul lived with total trust in God's purposes, not because he knew the future but because he trusted God's own words, 'God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." -MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians. pg. 87-88

Notes: