

STEADFAST PEOPLE

Ephesians 3:1-13

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE PERSPECTIVE
2. THE PURPOSE
3. THE PROMISE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. This week we look at Paul's example to see how we can remain steadfast regardless of what we face in life. What are some pressures you are experiencing right now that leave you feeling like you could use some steadfastness?
3. How Paul saw the gospel changed the way he saw everything else, including his suffering. What is the gospel? What has helped you personally see it as the good news it truly is? How has the gospel shaped your view of suffering/ difficulty?
4. One way that Paul's gospel perspective helped him remain steadfast in suffering is that it freed him from needing life to go "his way". Instead, he selflessly saw himself as a servant and he saw God's plan for his life as a gift. What areas of life do you feel "need" to go a certain way? Where are you trying to control outcomes that are beyond your control?
5. This week, we saw that the church is the "pilot program" for the healing and restoration that God, in his wisdom, is going to carry out in the world. What do you think about this great purpose we have in the church? What are some examples of how suffering might actually lead to us being able to display God's wisdom and power in a more significant?
6. In Eph. 3:13, Paul says that his afflictions are the "glory" of the Ephesians. This language points to the cross, where Jesus' afflictions also led to glory. Do you have any personal examples of difficulty and affliction resulting in glory?
7. **A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU:** The promise of the cross is that suffering has purpose. The promise of the resurrection is that suffering isn't the end.