

Lesson 7

Church Matters in Heaven!

Sharing Question:

Do you believe in angels? If you do, how would you describe your relationship to these unseen spiritual forces in the heavenly realms? What kind of influence do angels exert on your life now?

Study and Discussion Questions:

1. How does Ephesians 3:10-13 describe the church's relationship to angels? What does this tell you about the church? **Application:** What does this imply about the knowledge of the angels?
2. According to Scriptures like Luke 15:10 and 1 Peter 1:12, what seems to be the special interest of the angels in the affairs of men? How was this special interest demonstrated in Jesus' life? (Luke 2:13-14; 22:43) **Application:** How might the knowledge of this truth change the focus of your church's activities and programs?
3. What is included in "the manifold wisdom of God," which is revealed to the angels through the church? How does the context of Ephesians 3 help us interpret this statement? How did the Jews and the Gentiles respond to this "wisdom?" (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) **Application:** When would you say heavenly wisdom is most clearly displayed in your church community?
4. What biblical illustrations could you give of God bringing together those things that seem irreconcilable? What power is demonstrated in such paradoxes, according to 2 Corinthians 4:7-12? **Application:** Where have you seen the power of God's paradoxes in action? What confidence does this provide?

5. According to Ephesians 3:13, what is the purpose for Paul's declaration of the church's importance "in the heavenly realms?" Why did this church need encouragement?
Application: What encourages you most when the church goes through difficult times?

6. What is the "glory" in suffering referenced in Ephesians 3:13? How could Paul's suffering be the Ephesians' glory? **Application:** Why is it significant that this revelation of God's wisdom and the church's glory is being presented to the angels "now?"