

CHURCH

studies from the book of Ephesians

EPHESIANS 3:1-13



GREECE

ATHENS

EPHESUS

TURKEY

ANTIOCH

START OF PAUL'S
THIRD MISSIONARY
JOURNEY

SYRIA

CYPRUS

LEBANON

WEST BANK

ISRAEL

GAZA STRIP

JORDAN

ALEXANDRIA



Mystery

*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. -Ephesians 3:6*

“mystery” 4 times

(Watson) I could not help laughing at the ease with which he explained his process of deduction. "When I hear you give your reasons," I remarked, "the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours."

"Quite so," he answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair.

"You see, but you do not observe."



"SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA" by Arthur Conan Doyle

Mystery

*Often God's plans and work can't easily be seen or understood. Even when we can't see it **HE IS** working all things out for His good purposes and for those who love Him.*

Mystery

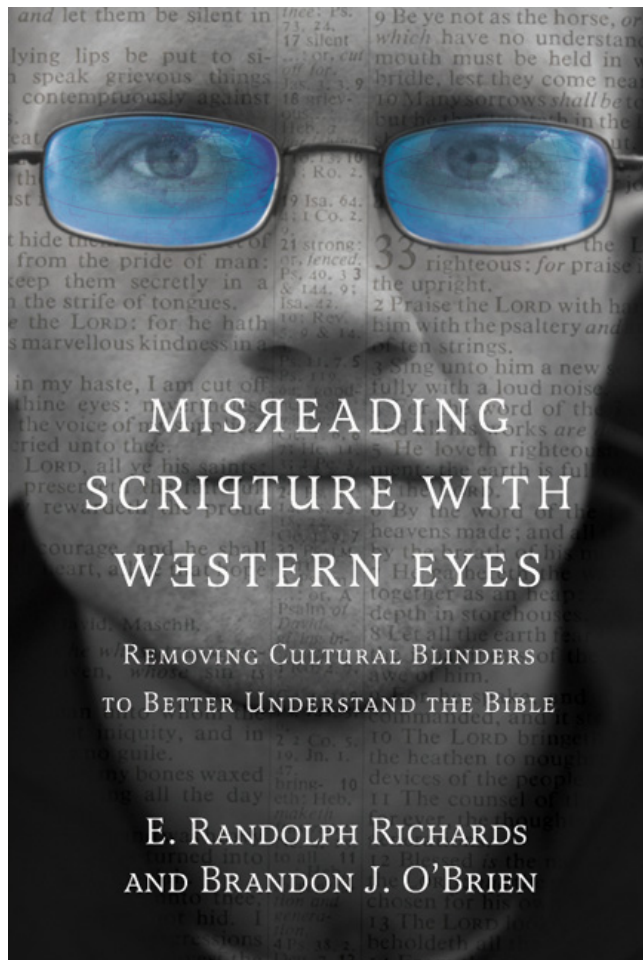
Because God's work can be "Mysterious":

1. *Don't beat yourself up when you can't seem to figure out what God is doing in your life. -Gen 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

*“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” -Ephesians 3:10*

Community



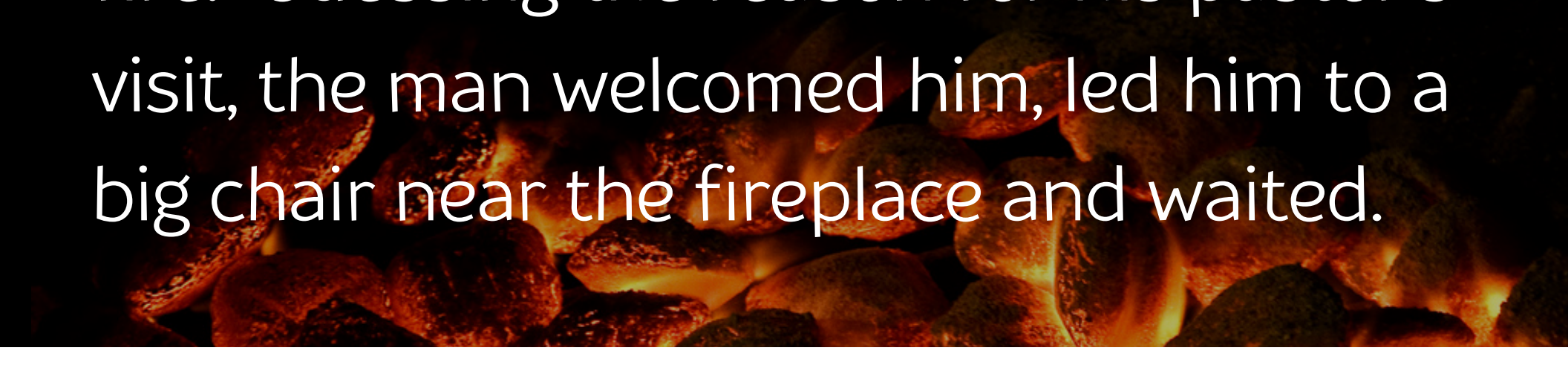
“Do you Americans *really* let teenagers who like each other go out at night *by themselves?*”

Community

A commitment to community demonstrates:

1. *Your desire for personal growth.*
2. *That you take playing your part in the “body” seriously.*

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited.



The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.



As the one lone ember's flame diminished,
there was a momentary glow and then
fire in it was no more.

Still not a word had been said.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave,
he picked up the cold, dead ember and
placed it back in the middle of the fire.



Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, finally the silence was broken and his host said, *"Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."*



Community

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.*

Prisoner

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



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.

Nick Vajicic

