

Ephesians 3:1-13

One of the truths we need to understand about our Christian faith is how we as Gentiles became acceptable to God. When God threw out Adam and Eve from the garden, sin entered into the world. At that time the people began to choose to serve God or not serve Him. God chose the Israelites to be His people. All the other people groups were Gentile or those whom God did not call His own. Yet God in His mercy He did not want anyone to perish so He allowed the Gentiles to be ministered to by the disciples. Here in Chapter 3 Paul speaks about a mystery. This mystery is not what we typically think about as something magical. It is simply some unknown fact that was about to be revealed. That revelation showed us how much God loved everyone including the Gentiles. There are several things we can learn from this passage.

1. ***The Mystery - God revealed that . . .***

- a. *vs. 6 – Gentiles are fellow heirs.* Because we are adopted into the family of God, we become God's children and therefore His heirs, able to inherit all that God offers to Jesus.
- b. *vs. 6 – Gentiles are members of the body of Christ.* As a member of the body of Christ, we become part of the "church" which is all believers worldwide.
- c. *Vs. 6 – Gentiles are partakers of the promise.* The promise is that we will have eternal life when we die, and life more abundantly here on earth.

2. ***The Minister – God called Paul and made him a minister according to God's grace and God's power.***

- a. *Vs. 7 – God gave Paul a gift of preaching.* Every gift comes from God and the call to minister cannot be ignored.
- b. *Vs. 7 – God's gift is through the working of God's power.* Without the power of God in Paul, his gift would just be an empty desire.
- c. *Vs. 8 – God chose an ordinary man to be His best representative.* Paul was nothing special as far as the Jewish people were concerned. He was just a zealot who hated believers, but, as he said, was the least of the saints.

3. The Message – God gave Paul a specific message to the Gentiles

- a. Vs. 8 – *God’s riches are unfathomable and beyond measure.* We can never truly understand the magnitude of God’s great riches available to us through His son and through His grace and mercy. The forgiveness of sin alone is worth more than we could afford. Add to that heaven, and we get the better end of the bargain.
- b. Vs. 9 – *God was revealing something that had been hidden since time began.* God used Paul to be His spokesperson to make known His plan to offer salvation to every man and woman. Jesus said the same things, but now Paul was coming behind and preaching it as well. Paul was living proof that what Jesus was offering was real and could make a difference in how you lived.
- c. Vs. 10 – *God was using the Gentiles to proclaim His wisdom to all the world.* Since the Jew were a smaller nation, the Gentile population was larger and therefore as the word spread about Gentiles becoming Christians, churches popped up all over the known world.
- d. Vs. 12 – *God wants us to be bold and confident about the access we have as Gentiles.* No longer was there to be the separation of beliefs between the Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles are just as welcome at the throne of Jesus and Jews are.
- e. Vs. 13 – *God wants His message to encourage us all.* The encouragement for us today is that “God is not willing that any should perish”. We are all able to “be accepted into the family of God”. And will a large “family” we have many members who will encourage us and support us and strengthen us in our times of need.