

# EPHESIANS – Chapters 1-3 - The believer's wealth in Christ



Pastor Tom Gang – Sunday, January 10, 2010

Our recent studies in Ephesians 2 have portrayed the church as a *body* and a *temple*. In chapter 3 we are told the church is a \_\_\_\_\_. A biblical mystery is defined in verse 5 as something once hidden but now \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, a mystery is something you can know. Last week's study of verses 1-7 began by reminding us that the apostle Paul is a \_\_\_\_\_ for every believer to follow (*1 Timothy 1:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1*); the text then exposed Paul as a:

- 1) A prisoner – verse 1
- 2) A propagator – verses 2-4
- 3) A \_\_\_\_\_ – verses 5-7

Today we pick up where we left off. We will again set our sights on chapter 3, focusing on verses 8-13. Here we see Paul as a \_\_\_\_\_, and his message is piercing – its truth is so penetrating that it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ to principalities and powers in heavenly places.

## EPHESIANS 3:8-13 – The mystery of Christ – part two

1. A preacher – Ephesians 3:8-9

a. The message – verse 8

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

There are a lot of things that fit into the category of “unsearchable:”

*God himself is past finding out – Job 11:7*

*His greatness is infinite – Ps. 145:3*

*His love is unquenchable – Song of Solomon 8:7*

*His judgments are unsearchable – Ro. 11:33*

*His gift is unspeakable – 2 Cor. 9:15*

*Some of his words are unspeakable – 2 Cor. 12:4*

*His peace passes all understanding – Philippians 4:7*

*His joy is unspeakable – 1 Peter 1:8*

Many “unsearchable” things are active and real but cannot be fully comprehended:

*We are “in Christ,” what a \_\_\_\_\_ place to be – Eph. 1:3, 7, 13; 2:13; 4:30; Col. 3:3, 14; Acts 13:38*

*We are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ – Ro. 8:38-39; 1 Thess. 5:23; Jude 1*

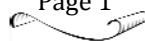
*We are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ – 1) acceptance 2) survival*

b. The reason for the message – verse 9a

- To make \_\_\_\_\_ men see what is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mystery

*The mystery – That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Ephesians 3:6*

*The fellowship of the mystery – An association settled on the worldwide preaching of the gospel for the express purpose that all might be one \_\_\_\_\_.*



c. The origin of the message – verse 9b

- From the beginning of the world hath been \_\_\_\_\_ in God

*Adam & Eve – Ephesians 5:31-32; Genesis 2:21-25; 1 Cor. 15:45-52*

*Isaac & Rebekah – Genesis 24*

*Boaz & Ruth – Ruth*

*The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 –*

*Solomon and his Shulamite lover – Song of Solomon*

2. A picture – Ephesians 3:10-13

a. Portrayed to principalities and powers - verses 10-11

- God's angelic host – 1 Peter 1:12
- The devils disciples – Eph. 6:12
- What do they all see?

*The manifold wisdom of God – The multi-faceted beauty of God's \_\_\_\_\_ is demonstrated by those in Christ – the church!*

*His eternal purpose – They see how \_\_\_\_\_ that happened in eternity past, everything leading up through to the church age, everything leading up to this very moment in 2010, has been part of a vast eternal plan found within the heart and mind of God!*

b. Portrayed to every believer – verses 12-13

- What do you see?

*Boldness for God and the gospel?*

*Access to God and other believers?*

*Confidence in what the Bible says is true?*

*Faith strengthened by God?*

