

L81 | Ephesians | "The Fellowship of the Mystery" | Eph. 3:8-13

I. Intro/Review:

- Paul - less than the least of all saints
 - The least of the apostles
 - Grace
 1. Paul is given the grace to preach
 2. Paul is given the grace to preach to the Gentiles
 3. Paul is given the grace to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of the Christ
 - Was hid in God, but a plan of creation through redemption in Christ
 4. Paul is given the grace to preach to the Gentiles that all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery
 5. Paul is given the grace to preach to the Gentiles to the intent that the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God

II. Preview:

- Paul
 1. **Preach**
 - 1.1 - Content - "the unsearchable riches of Christ"
 - 1.2 - Audience - "among the Gentiles"
 2. **To Make See**
 - 2.1 - Content - "what is the fellowship of the mystery"
 - 2.2 - Audience - "all men"
 - "which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God"
 - "who created all things by Jesus Christ:"
 3. **To the Intent that Now...Might Be Known by the Church**
 - 3.1 - Content - "the manifold wisdom"
 - 3.2 - Audience - "unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places"
- According to the eternal purpose in Christ

III. Sermon:

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;
{Ephesians 3:8}

1. **Preach**

- 1.1 - Content - "the unsearchable riches of Christ"

- **"riches of Christ"** - God has been making known from the beginning of the world
 - Many "searchable" - not unknowable - don't know because you don't search
 - John 5:39 - "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."
 - 1 Pet. 1:6-12 - "...searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify,"
 - Amazing "riches of Christ" - concerning "glory"
 - Eph. 1:18 - "...and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"
 - Eph. 3:16 - "...according to the riches of His glory"
 - Col. 1:27, 2:2
- **"unsearchable"** - past finding out (Rom. 11:33)
 - Not unsearchable in the sense of not being able to know (Paul is given them that they may be known, seen, heard, preached, received, and understood), but never before revealed to be able to search
 - That which was unsearchable concerned the Gentiles
 - It was "hid" - Eph. 3:9 - "hid", but now God is revealing it by His Spirit to Paul to preach that now only can be revealed, but now we can "search".
- **Summary** - Paul is magnifying the riches of God's grace
 - Grace in that it was given to Paul
 - Grace in that it was given to Paul to the Gentiles
 - Grace in that it was given to Paul to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ
 - This is the first thing Paul make's mention
 - To preach the unsearchable riches of Christ
 - The next two are by-products of the first
 - "to make all men see" (v9)
 - "to the intent that now" (v10)

1.2 - Audience - **"among the Gentiles"**

- Paul's ministry to the Gentiles
 - Acts 4:27 - Jew and Gentile against God and His anointed
 - Ps. 2
 - Acts 9:15-16 - "...to bear my name before the Gentiles..."
 - Acts 10:45, 11:1, 18
 - Acts 13:42-14:27 - (:46) - "lo, we turn to the Gentiles"
 - (:27) - "door of faith to the Gentiles"
 - Acts 15:3, 7, 12, 14, 17 - "conversion of the Gentiles"
 - Acts 18:6 - "henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles"

- Acts 22:21 - "Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles"
- Acts 26:17 - "Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,"
- Acts 26:20 - "But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."
- Acts 26:23 - "That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."
- Acts 28:28 - "Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it."
- Gentile History
 - From the Jewish View - Eph. 2:11 - "Uncircumcision"
 - "without Christ"
 - "aliens from commonwealth of Israel"
 - "strangers from covenants of promise"
 - "having no hope"
 - "without God in the world"
 - From God's View - Eph. 2:2
 - "walked according to the course of this world"
 - "according to the prince of the power of the air"
 - "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"
 - "conversation in times past in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind"
 - "by nature the children of wrath"

**And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
{Ephesians 3:9}**

2. To Make See

- "see" - light, lighten,
 - Luke 11:36 - If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee **light**.
 - John 1:9 - That was the true Light, which **lighteth** every man that cometh into the world.
 - 1 Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to **light** the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.
 - Ephesians 1:18; 3:9
 - 2 Timothy 1:10 - But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to **light** through the gospel:

- Hebrews 6:4 - For it is impossible for those who were once **enlightened**, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,
- Hebrews 10:32 - But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were **illuminated**, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;
- Revelation 18:1 - And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was **lightened** with his glory.
- Revelation 21:23 - And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did **lighten** it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.
- Revelation 22:5 - And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them **light**: and they shall reign for ever and ever.
- Revelation Translations
 - Luke 2:32 - "a light to **lighten**"
 - Eph. 1:8-9 - "having made known unto us"
 - Eph. 1:17 - "...spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him:"
 - Eph. 3:9 - "and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery"
 - Rom. 8:19 - "waiteth for the **manifestation** of the sons of God."
 - Rom. 16:25 - "according to the **revelation** of the mystery,"
 - 1 Cor. 1:7 - "waiting for the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
 - 2 The. 1:7 - "when the Lord Jesus shall be **revealed** from heaven"
 - 1 Pet. 1:7 - "...might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the **appearing** of Jesus Christ:"

2.1 - Content - "**what is the fellowship of the mystery**"

- "fellowship" - communion, contribution, distribution, communication, communicate,
- "of the mystery" - oneness, sameness, unity, one body, same body, fellowheirs, partakers of the promise

2.2 - Audience - "all men"

- How do all men see it?
 - Hear, read, see - we become the evidence of that which we hear and read for all to see
 - All see with our "unity"
 - All see when our differences are not the basis of our relationships
- "**which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God**"
 - The mystery was unsearchable, the mystery wasn't known, and its' fruit - its' fellowship was also "hid in God".

- "who created all things by Jesus Christ"

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
{Ephesians 3:10}

- "manifold" - only use
 - Exhibited or appearing at divers times or in various ways; applied to words in the singular number; as the manifold wisdom of God, or his manifold grace.
 - Ps. 104:24 - "manifold are thy works"
 - 1 Pet. 4:10 - "manifold grace of God"

IV. Conclusion: