

# L80 | Ephesians | "Unsearchable Riches of Christ For All to See" | Eph. 3:8-13

## I. Intro/Review:

- Paul, apostleship, prisoner, to the Gentiles
- The revelation of the mystery of Christ
  - Not Gentile salvation - Gal. - the scripture foresaw that
  - "fellowheirs", "same body", "partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel"
- Revelation
  1. Made known
  2. "heard" - "wrote...whereby when ye read"
  3. May understand
- Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1

## II. Preview:

1. Paul - who am less than the least of all saints
2. Preach
  - I. the unsearchable riches of Christ
  - II. to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery
  - III. to the intent that now - the manifold wisdom of God might be known by the church unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places

## 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. "unto me" - Paul
  1. "whom am less than the least of all saints,"
    - "who am less than the least" - far less (1x and only)
    - Paul's description of himself is very telling
      - a. 1 Corinthians 15:9a - "least of the apostles"
        - 1 Corinthians 12:28 - "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles..."
        - Paul is the least of that which is first in the church
        - 1 Corinthians 15b - "that am not meet to be called an apostle"
          - "because I persecuted the church of God."
          - Galatians 1:13-14

b. Yet here Paul is less than the least of all saints

- Paul's ministry to the world

- **Gal. 6:14 - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."**

- "the world is crucified unto me" - 2 Cor. 5 - reconciling of the world

- "and I unto the world." - 1 Cor. 8, Col. 1 - servant and sufferer for the Gentiles

- **1 Tim. 1:15 - Paul is a sinner and he is chief to teach them that Christ came into the world for them.**

2. **"is this grace given"** - grace of apostleship, grace to preach, grace to teach Christ

2. **"that I should preach"** - Eph. 3:2 (heard)

- 1 Cor. 1:17-18

- 1 Cor. 1:21 - the foolishness of preaching

1. Audience - "among the Gentiles"

1. God's judgment of Gentiles

- Rom. 1

- Eph. 4

2. Israel's view of the Gentiles

- Gal. 3 - sinners of the Gentiles

- Eph. 2 - Uncircumcision

2. Substance - **"the unsearchable riches of Christ;"**

**I. The unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles**

**II. To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery**

**III. To the intent the heavenly places may know the manifold wisdom of God**

**I. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ - among the Gentiles**

1. **"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

## 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)

**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}**

## II. To Make All Men See - what is the fellowship of the mystery

- **"to make all men see"**
  - 1 Corinthians 4 - "spectacle unto the world, angels, and men"
  - 2 Corinthians 1 - "conversation to the world, more abundantly to you-ward"
  - Galatians 6 - "do good to all men, especially the household of faith"
- **"see"**
  - 2 Tim. 1:10 - "brought to life and immortality to light"
  - Heb. 6:4 - "were once enlightened"
  - Heb. 10:32 - "were illuminated,"
  - Eph. 1:18 - "enlightened"
- Lights

- Php. 2 - shine as lights in the world
- **"what is the fellowship of the mystery"**
  - 1 Corinthians 1 - "fellowship of the Son"
  - 1 Corinthians 12 - "baptized into Christ, into one body"
  - Our fellowship one with another because our fellowship with Christ
    - Joint-heirs with Christ
    - Fellowheirs with one another
    - Glorified together
  - Big issue in Ephesians 4
    - Gal 3:26-29
    - Col. 3:10-11
- **"which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God"**
  - **"which from the beginning of the world"** - Luke 1:70 - "since the world began"
    - Jn. 9:32 - "since the world began"
    - Acts 3:21 - "since the world began"
    - Acts 15:18 - "the beginning of the world"
  - **"hath been hid in God"**
    - 1 Cor. 2
    - "the revelation of the mystery of Christ"
    - Some exceeding riches concerning man, the earth, and the heaven
    - One new man, one body, peace among Jew and Gentiles
    - This is hid in God when He judges the Gentiles, this is hid in God when He calls Abraham, this is hid in God throughout history, and now revealed after the Cross to Paul.
- **"who created all things by Jesus Christ"**
  - This "mystery" was "hid in God" before the beginning, before God created all things by Jesus Christ - the one new man, the one body, the peace.
  - This "new man" is "created by Jesus Christ", not simply out of the dust of the ground, but from the enmity between Jew and Gentile.

**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}**

III. To The Intent that Now unto The Principalities and Powers in Heavenly Places - might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God

#### IV. Conclusion:

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