

Passage: Ephesians 3:7-13

Title: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

Summary: Paul writes and prays that the recipient of this epistle will claim all their spiritual inheritance, and Paul in these short verses will give us keys to how he did, and we can. So let's get into it, and "search" for the "unsearchable" riches of Christ.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Last Week We Studied / Gentiles Shall be Fellow Heirs of Same Body & Promises

*Ephesians 3:1-6 (NKJV)*¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body: This describes the mystery itself—that believing Jews and believing Gentiles are joined together into one body of Christ, into one Church, and no longer separated before God as such.

Partakers of His promise in Christ: The truth of this mystery means that Gentiles are now full partakers of His promise. This was a privilege no longer reserved only for the believing Jewish person.

Through the gospel: This could only happen through the gospel, where all men have an equal standing in Jesus. This is the same gospel Paul is a servant of, because of the gift of grace given to him by the working of God's power.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 3:7-13 (NKJV) ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. ¹³ Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Fellow Heirs of Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Least of the Saints?

Position

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Fellowship in the Mystery (the 1 Body of Christ)
- Full Access to Him
- In Him

Promise

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Given the Manifold Wisdom of God
- Full Access (with Boldness and Confidence) to Him

Overview

Although it doesn't seem so, in many times we just read through these several verses, they seem to just be a bridge from the past thought to the next thought, I believe we have a deep passage that is key to this whole book, and to the whole great ministry of the great apostle Paul. Paul writes and prays that the recipient of this epistle will claim all their spiritual inheritance, and Paul in these short verses will give us keys to how he did, and we can. So let's get into it, and "search" for the "unsearchable" riches of Christ.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*

Outline: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

- Paul's Powerful Ministry (3:7)
- The Power Behind Paul's Ministry (3:7)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:8)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because he was the Least of Saints (3:8)
- A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words (3:9)
- The Angels have to Look at You to Understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:10-11)
- Access to the Throne is the "Key" to where to Search for the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:12)
- Paul's Prison took him into Deeper Waters (3:13)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Paul's Powerful Ministry (3:7)

God Gives Gifts

As you recall, Ephesians chapters 1-3 are about what God has done for us; one of the gifts God has given to us, is the Apostle Paul.

You Are A Gift to Someone

Do you realize you are a gift to someone? There is not a person in this room who is not a gift to someone.

As God gave Paul as a gift church, God gives you as a gift. I think that will change the way you live when you see that God gives you as a gift to people. That God says I love this person so much, I am going to give them a gift, and I give them you.

And just to note, even if the person or people don't view you as a gift, you are still a gift none the less. Paul would say to the church in Corinth, the more I love you the least I am loved; but that did not stop him for continuing to love them and give himself as a gift to them

2 Corinthians 12:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. ¹⁵ And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

A Minister - Servant

Ephesians 3:7 (WWSGNT): The word "minister" is diakonos (διακονος), "a servant seen in his activity." Our word "deacon" comes from this Greek word. The Greek word refers to one who serves. The word "minister" is misleading, since it is the technical word used today to designate the pastor of a church. Paul merely meant that he became one who ministered the gospel, served God in that capacity.

Paul says he is a minister, but that is a title of service, not exaltation. In classical literature of ancient Greece, the minister (diakonos) "is a table waiter who is always at the bidding of his customers." (Wood)

Paul's saying, I am just a minister, an errand boy, and happy to be just that.

The Power Behind Paul's Ministry (3:7)

Effective Working – Even the Errand Boy

But even an errand boy, a servant, needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What type of power are you serving with?

Mount of Olives – Place of Distribution

As I taught up on the Mount of Olives, I reminded myself and all on the trip, the promise that was made there. I called it “The Place of Distribution”. Yes, it is where the great Matthew 24 message of the last days was given, distributed, but also for the last days I need the promise that was given on that location..... And you shall receive power when the Spirit comes upon you. God gave the promise that He would give, distribute, the power and equipping for us for the ministry, serving, He has given for us to do.

Acts 1:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey.

Acts 1:4–8 (NKJV) ⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Right Now Ask for Gift of Holy Spirit

I think we should all pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit today. If you would like to have someone lay hands on you and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can come forward after service and we will do that. Paul gives us a key to the unlocking of his success, and that is in Ephesians 5, and the verb tense would make it read, continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit, God Himself, to live the life God calls us to.

Ephesians 5:15–18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Luke 11:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

More of Him, less of me. We aren’t reading about Paul who learned and mastered how to be a good person; we are reading, and God is showing us, a man who is led and supplied by God Himself, not Paul himself.

George Markey

I am reminded of a good-ole country boy from Indiana, who I met when I did a mission trip in the Ukraine. His name was George Markey, and he was the first pastor to plant a Calvary Chapel in the Ukraine after the walls came down. He had a church of 1,000 in Indiana, and I asked why he would leave 1,000 to go into the unknown, to which he said he wanted to go where the fishing was good. Well he was in the city Kiev, there in the Ukraine, and education is paramount in that country. George said he had professional musicians, professional interpreters, and the likes. All these exceptionally talented people performing ministry roles. The only problem he said was that nothing was happening in the ministry, it felt dead and dry. Then the Lord spoke to him to replace all the professionals, and just use people who loved Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit of God. He said it didn’t matter if they missed a chord, or didn’t understand a word in translation, all that mattered was they had an intimate relationship with the Lord, and were led and equipped by Him. He said immediately after he did that, the ministry started to flourish. Holy means (uncommon), and ministry done in the common will be common. So, how common, or uncommon, is your ministry? More of Him, less of me.

Paul was a Gift – May we be Too

Paul was a gift, simply serving, and gladly serving, by the effective power of God.

Ephesians 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Effective for 2 Reasons

Paul was an effective servant for two very clear reasons; one was because he was filled with the Holy Power, the power of God, and secondly because he was humble. Paul is writing from prison, and yet he doesn't play on that to say look how spiritual I am, I serve even in such hardship. When Paul wrote this, he was under house arrest, he still had not come to the prison pit that he would end in when he wrote 1 and 2 Timothy. He would be under house arrest that still wasn't pleasant considering he would give up his freedom to go where he chooses to go, and so what he desired to do. But he freely gave that up to be *a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.*

Caesarea Maritime

It was in Caesarea that Paul, while under house arrest gave his defense before

Acts 25:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ And after some days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus. ¹⁴ When they had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying: "There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix,

Acts 25:23 (NKJV) ²³ So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in.

Paul would be imprisoned two years, but when it came time to preach, he preached with power. So powerful that King Agrippa says Paul almost persuades him to be converted. You would think Paul would wear down, flame out, his fire and zeal with be extinguished..... but we see that as time goes on, even prison time, Paul grows hotter and hotter, his passion and zeal grows by the day, not diminishes by the hour.

Acts 24:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

Acts 26:28–29 (NKJV) ²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." ²⁹ And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

Why? Because of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:8)

The Unsearchable Riches of Christ / The Deeper Paul Searched – the Deeper it Went

The word "unsearchable" is anexichniaston (ἀνεξιχνίαστον), from exichniastō (ἐξιχνιάζω), "to trace out," and Alpha privative which negates the word, making it mean, "that which cannot be traced out." The riches of Christ here "are the riches that Christ has or which are in Him. The ploutos (πλοῦτος) (wealth) thus contained in Christ is the whole wealth of the salvation He bestows; and this is 'unsearchable' not in the sense of inexhaustible, but rather in that of unfathomable, 'past finding out,' such as cannot be fully comprehended by men" (Expositors).

As Paul searched and traced this gift of grace, the deeper he went, the deeper it became.

The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because he was the Least of Saints (3:8)

How Does Paul React (with Such Great Revelation) – With Great Humility

Paul was given the greatest revelation of all time, one of the greatest callings of all time (to be an apostle to the Gentiles), God personally came to meet him on the road to Damascus. How does he react? He reacts with humility.

When You See God's Greatness – You Will be Humbled

When you see God's greatness, you will be humble.

Isaiah - in a vision was taken to the throne of God, what did he say,

(Isaiah 6:5 NKJV) So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

Peter - said depart from me when he knew he was standing before the Almighty God.

(Luke 5:8 NKJV) When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

John the Baptist - said I'm not worthy to tie your shoe, let alone baptize you.

(Matthew 3:14 NKJV) And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

Paul had Ink Spot on His Shirt

Paul says he is the least of the saints. Now you know Paul isn't living in some type of habitual sin, but Paul is like a white shirt with an ink spot on it. The closer you get to the Lord, the more obvious your sinfulness will be to you. Understanding the deep truths of God's Word does not give a man a big head; it gives him a broken and contrite heart.

Paul's Resume of "greatness"

Paul starts off as a Pharisee, chief among the religious. Here is his resume:

(Philippians 3:4-7 NKJV) though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Blameless in the law, there were 613 Jewish laws if you wanted to be blameless, and that is not just keeping them, but you would have to had memorized them all in order to know what to keep.

But Then..... His Progression

But he met the Lord, and look at the progression of how he saw himself:

- Least of the apostles – (1 Corinthians 15:9) written around 56AD.
- Least of the saints – (Ephesians 3:8) written around 60AD.
- Chief of sinners – (1 Timothy 1:15) written around 62-63AD.

(1 Corinthians 15:9 NKJV) For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

(1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

So Paul goes from the "top 12" as least of the apostles, then to let's say "top 25%" as least of the saints (if 1 in 4 receive the good seed – Mark 4), and then as the "chief of sinners", he goes to bottom, bottom 100%.

Paul Most Accomplished – But Remained Amazed that God Would Save him

Paul was certainly the most accomplished of all the apostles he wrote several books of the New Testament started some of the greatest churches and lead some of the greatest mission trips and yet he remained amazed at the fact God would save him.

It's sad when people think the God was lucky to get them.

More He Saw Himself – The More He Saw Grace

The more Paul saw his sinfulness as he matured in the Lord, the more he saw God grace. It seems the more Paul preached this message of grace, the less and less he saw of himself. He starts by saying I'm the least of the apostles, so as I read that he is still in the top twelve. Then least of the saints, that still means he is in around the top 25 percentile, because he is above all the heathen. But then he says I'm chief of sinners, I'm number 1, but it is a number 1 that doesn't come with any prizes. Be encouraged, for Paul was saved somewhere around 35AD, and it was twenty years before he said he was the least of the saints, twenty-five to become least of the saints and almost thirty to become the chief of sinners.

Heart Check – Where Are you on the Progression Chart

So for a heart check, really, where are you on this progression? You the least of the apostles (I am a spiritual heavyweight, really, I am just ask me). Or do you see yourself pretty good saint, especially as I look at the other saints I know. Or do you say, there or I except by the grace of God as you look upon the lost and dying. The beauty of seeing yourself as the least of the saints, you will never look down upon another one of God's saints, you will place yourself above another saint, and thus you will always be lowly and humble among your church family, and among your home family, and I will promise you a power and sweetness in your relationships when you do..... for God will honor you in ways you have never imagined before..... just ask Paul, and just look at Paul's life. And if you will consider yourself chief of sinners you will never look down on a sinner again, you will look at sinners' as lost and dying and in need of a savior; you have a whole new heart for them, and you will be moved with compassion as you seem enslaved and ensnared to sin, and the devil, and you will never rest in their lost state, but live a life to set them free, just like Paul did.

See the more you see of Jesus, the more you will see how far He has saved you from.

The Unsearchable Riches – How Far You Willing to Dig – Does your Shovel has Rust on It

How deep are you willing to dig? How far are you willing to search? Has your shovel rusted? I noticed that my shovels rust over as they lay against the wall, but I also notice how shinny they get when I am continually pierce deeper and deeper into the ground.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words (3:9)

Ephesians 3:9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

All See – Turn Light On – Take Photo

Verse 9 - to make all see – This actually means to “turn the light on”. The Greek word for “see” is “photizo”, where we get the English word “photo”. Paul is saying here is a photo, look at, see what I see (and saw). A photo is something that preserves proof. As I show you pictures of Israel, it is showing you what I actually saw, experienced, and proof that it is real. I like what our guide said about Israel, he said whether you are a believer or atheist, coming to the land of Israel proves one thing, that the writers of the Bible walked this land, because every physical location of the Bible is found in the land. Paul is saying, here is a photo of what I saw, and I want you to see it, and that is you are part of the body of God.

A Mystery

A mystery is something that is not perfectly clear, but the more it is considered and searched out, the clearer it becomes. The mystery has been made completely clear to us today, that God has one body, and that is made up of anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord for salvation, whether Jew or Gentile.

Romans 10:8–13 (NKJV) ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Have you called upon the name of the Lord for salvation?

Caesarea – Place of Adoption / I have a Photo

When I was at Caesarea, I called it “The Place of Adoption” as it is the place that it was clear as clear can be, that the Gentiles were adopted into the family and body with the Jews to make one body. Here is a photo of Caesarea, a place of clarity, the mystery clearly cleared, God gave Peter a vision, what I call clean let no man call unclean..... speaking of the Gentiles, and then called Peter to go preach to the Gentiles and when he did the Spirit fell on them and it was clearly declared, the Gospel is for both the Jew and Gentile!

Acts 10:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 11:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

Adoption Today is the Same

Adoption has a common element to it. Two parties both wanting. As for the child, the want of a family, someone to love them, to care for them, to take them in, and make them their own. But on the other side there is a parent who wants a family, someone to love, some to care for, someone to give them self to and for.

I watch some families in this church adopt children, and I always just marvel in them, I just think how wonderful and marvelous they are for the children they made their own. I have seen it from those with little children, and then those who the little children are now adults, and I marvel how I have to be told or remind myself of the adoption, because the family I see is so one, and so beautiful. It is truly something that moves my heart, it is one of the most amazing things I see in life.

We as children saw a Heavenly Father, and were drawn and then said could it be that He could want me, make me His own, bring me into His family..... Could He possibly want me! Then we find a God, who says to us, oh how I want you, oh how I desire to have you, I want you to be part of my family.

Have you celebrated that today? I pray you soak in that today. I am not asking you to respond to then go out and do some great exploit, or service, but to simply marvel right now..... God wanted me.

The Angels have to Look at You to Understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:10-11)

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

Ephesians 3:11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Angels See as they Look at Us

Wisdom - being revealed to angels who are marveling. Peter said the same thing. So Paul and Peter are saying the angels have to watch us, to understand what is God is doing, on making one Church, one body, made up of Jew and Gentile (who believe and call upon the Name of the Lord).

1 Peter 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Mystery of God on the Cross

I think we can clearly see that the mystery being spoken of is that the Jew and the Gentile shall be one body together and that the Gentiles are fellow heirs in all of the promises of God, including being grafted in and becoming part of the body. But I think the greatest mystery that has been unfold, and only by the Holy Spirit can it fully be revealed and understood, is that the means and the way that this would be and happen is that God himself would become the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. That is the amazing mystery, that though it was a foreshadow as demonstrated in Genesis 22, as Abraham took his son, his only son, Isaac, up to Mount Moriah, the very same Mount that Jesus Christ would be crucified on 4,000 years later. That is the true mystery that was fuzzy, and not fully, clearly understandable, but has now been made known when Jesus Christ went to the cross and died for the sins of the world.

Genesis 22:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Devil Too

Other principalities would include the devil - who marvels at God's wisdom of one sacrifice, one perfect sacrifice, can redeem the whole world. Now, very important for you to pull this thread; if we keep digging, and we never reach the bottom, and we grow deeper and deeper in the grace of God, and become more and more like Him; then the Devil (the fallen angelic being) has to study me and you to understand the

Unsearchable Riches of Christ, and the more he sees that, and that it is directed towards, and price God willing paid for us to buy us and adopt us..... it drives him mad, and you will be the object of his anger and hatred.

1 Peter 4:12-14 (NKJV) ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Access to the Throne is the "Key" to where to Search for the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:12) Ephesians 3:12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Access is Key to the Search

Access is key to the search, that is unsearchable, no end, no bottom. Once you reach one summit, you look from the summit to see there is another peak even higher. But God gives a clear map and direction on where to search, as He says come unto me with confidence, and I will be you "guide", I will lead you from summit to summit.

Promise Full Access / But Make No Mistake – Only 1 Way to the Father (Through Jesus)

There is the promise of access unto God, the calling to come with confidence and boldness. However, let there be no mistake, the access to God is through Jesus Christ and Him only. There are no co-redeemers, and not all roads (aka religions) lead to God; Jesus will say in what the verb structure is called emphatic, I am the Only Way, the Only Truth, and the Only Life, no man comes to the Father except by Me!

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Access Not Through Buildings or Religion

When I was on the Temple Mount there in Israel, obviously there was no Temple there, so all of Israel goes to the Western Wall (The Wailing Wall), and they pray, sometimes wailing in tears because they cannot go up to the Temple Mount area, and because there is no Temple (which represented the presence of God – called the Shinekah Glory, dwelling in the Holy of Holies). I call the Western Wall, "The Place of Misdirection", because they are misdirected on where the presence of God is, and I called the Temple Mount the "Place of Representation" as it was a place to represent what was to come, that all the sacrifices were a foreshadow of the need for a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin, and that the presence of God was not going to be limited to a building, but that God would make his children the Temple of God and dwell in them.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Jeremiah Indicts Israel Before 1st Temple Destroyed

Before the destruction of the first Temple, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to indict the nation, saying you put all your trust in that you have a Temple, and therefore you are blameless, yet you do all kinds of evil. So too it is true today, no building, no religion, no statues, no monuments, no mosques, can provide access into the presence of God, only Jesus Christ the mediator, the bridge, the access, to God in heaven.

Jeremiah 7:1-11 (NKJV) ¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ² "Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!' " ³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.' ⁵ "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, ⁶ if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, ⁷ then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. ⁸ "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations?' ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the LORD.

Paul's Prison took him into Deeper Waters (3:13)

Ephesians 3:13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Paul Preaches Bold Access – From Prison

Access - look who is speaking access, the guy who is in prison. Hey you can access the throne of grace from your seat right here, in your hospital bed, anywhere, anytime.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God doesn't just save a person but provides access to a personal and intimate relationship with Him that you can boldly come before Him, anytime and any place

Paul Says – Don't Cry for Me

Paul says and don't cry for me, i gladly live this life. Yes Paul pours himself out for the Gentiles, but every drop he pours out was first poured into him as he waded into deeper water of Gods unsearchable riches.

Enduring versus Loving

Enduring is one thing, but loving is a total another thing. Paul loved to the end, and the longer the tribulation lasted, the greater his love poured out.

Closing – This Passage Unlocks So Much of Paul's Ministry / But Israel/Christian Do Not Take All the Land

So was I close we see an amazing proclamation declaration of the Apostle Paul and his enduring and loving to the end and so we have a key that unlocks for us today from the heart of this man the heart of the message is he delivered From God himself that all the spiritual inheritance are ours for the taking and they are unsearchable the riches that had been provided for us in and through Christ Jesus .

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

But there is something that I fully saw as I travel the land of Israel as i went from North to South and East the West and as glorious as it was to see the land and Israel back in it I couldn't help but notice how much of the land is real didn't possess considering how much God had promised them. the book of Ephesians is written to us that we might possess all the spiritual inheritance In Christ Jesus they got hands for us and yet so many times we as Christians we don't take all the promises and all the inheritance and we don't live to the fullest all the promises of God In other words we don't take all the land either.

I pray the Lord challenges our hearts today before we leave this place will say I want all the spiritual blessings that are promised to me And I don't want to just stop where I'm at I want to go deeper in the unsearchable riches of Christ and may I never be content where I'm at regardless of how many years and regardless of how great the years may have been they always know but there's more because it's a promise of God and the riches are unsearchable therefore every time I search I'll find more.

Calvary is a Bus Station Now – Buried among Busyness

It's also amazing to me, after we were up on Mount Olives overlooking the Temple Mount, and even as we then drove around the city, I could not see Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha from the Mount of Olives today. And when we went through the city and got up to where the crucifixion was, even knowing as I did that it was right across from the Damascus Gate, I still could not see it. And I think the example is so fitting, because it was just surrounded and buried by the bustling city around it, a bus station in front of it, and buildings around it. The greatest demonstration of love there on that mountain was just buried by the busyness of the city and the people going past it. And I think that's so fitting because sometimes that's just the way our lives are. We totally miss the glory of what happened 2000 years ago, as God came down, because of

the busy-ness and the bustling of the world around us. I pray God will just speak to our hearts today, that we can set ourselves apart.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Fellow Heirs of Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Least of the Saints?

Position

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Fellowship in the Mystery (the 1 Body of Christ)
- Full Access to Him
- In Him

Promise

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Given the Manifold Wisdom of God
- Full Access (with Boldness and Confidence) to Him

Overview

Although it doesn't seem so, in many times we just read through these several verses, they seem to just be a bridge from the past thought to the next thought, I believe we have a deep passage that is key to this whole book, and to the whole great ministry of the great apostle Paul. Paul writes and prays that the recipient of this epistle will claim all their spiritual inheritance, and Paul in these short verses will give us keys to how he did, and we can.

***Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)** ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

***Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)** ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*

Outline: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

- Paul's Powerful Ministry (3:7)
- The Power Behind Paul's Ministry (3:7)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:8)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because he was the Least of Saints (3:8)
- A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words (3:9)
- The Angels have to Look at You to Understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:10-11)
- Access to the Throne is the "Key" to where to Search for the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:12)
- Paul's Prison took him into Deeper Waters (3:13)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

***Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study