

GOOD NEWS! **Ephesians 3:1-13**

This morning let us review and rejoice in God's good news.

I. A MYSTERY REVEALED (1-7)

A. THE SPECIFICS (6)

1. Gentiles are fellow heirs - See 1:3
2. Gentiles are fellow members - See 2:19
3. Gentiles are fellow partakers
- See Rom. 9:25-26 and 10:11-12
4. Gentile Equality?
 - a. "In the minds of most Jews, their spiritual separation from Gentiles was so absolute and so right that the thought of total equality before God was inconceivable and little short of blasphemy." (John MacArthur, "Ephesians," Moody, 1986; page 92).
 - b. See 2:12 and note their previous condition.
 - c. This truly is amazing grace is it not?

B. THE SPOKESMAN (1-5, 7)

1. Committed to God (1)
2. Assigned by Christ (2-5)
 - a. A divine responsibility (2)
 - b. An amazing revelation (3-5)
 - 1) Bringing together things that were previously unknown and unknowable
 - 2) See I Peter 1:10-12
3. Special agent status (7)
 - a. A minister of Christ's gospel, by God's grace and the Spirit's empowerment.
 - b. See Col. 1:29
4. Amazing!
 - a. Who would have guessed that God would use a very well educated and devout Jewish theologian who at one time killed Christians to be a witness to Gentiles!
 - b. Who would have think it!

II. THE MESSAGE PROCLAIMED (8-12)

A. INSPIRING GENTILES (8)

1. Informing the uninformed - see Rom. 10:14
2. Communicating the incomparable Christ! - See Heb. 10:11-18

B. ENLIGHTENING ANGELS (9-10)

1. Shedding light on the detailed plans and exceeding wise ways of God revealed through the church to angels.
2. They watch and wonder - See I Peter 1:12b
3. They learn of and revel in God's work
 - God's intricate plan for the redemption of man enriches the Angel's praise of God.

C. EXPLAINING SOVEREIGN PURPOSES (11-12)

1. Establishing the fact that the church is in accord with God's eternal purpose (11a)
2. Revealing that God would restore His relationship with mankind through Christ (11b)
3. Explaining that, through faith, men can confidently approach God (12)

III. THE MINISTER'S PLEA (13)

A. DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED

1. Remember this is all about good news
2. Paul reassures them that he has a mystery to reveal and a message to proclaim and they should not despair about his difficulties.

B. DO BE DELIGHTED

1. Your glory rests in this good news!
2. This is stunning, spectacular and radiant revelation.

CONCLUSION:

The Good News: *"For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved" – Rom. 10:13*

Have you called?

Are you saved?

Will you rejoice?

- Song: "Thank you Lord"