

The Mystery of Christ

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 7, 2018

Ephesians 3:1-12

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. 7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

1. WHAT IS THE MYSTERY?

- THAT WE SHOULD BE ONE UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

Eph 3:6

This mystery is that through the gospel... [we would become] members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Eph 1:9-10

9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

2. WHO IS INCLUDED IN THIS MYSTERY?

- ALL WHO PLACE THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

Eph 3:6

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:27

... God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

3. WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS MYSTERY?

- WE SHARE IT

Eph 3:10

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

1 Cor 15:3-8

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time... 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.