

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 3:1-13**.
- B. A mystery had been given the apostles to explain to the people. The solution is fantastic!
- C. In this lesson we shall look at what this mystery is, and the wonderful blessings that come with it.

I. THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED!

- A. The mystery question is: *How is God going to make men righteous?*
- B. Possible answers:
 - 1. Man is righteous in and of himself. No, this is not true (Isa. 59:1,2; Rom. 3:10,23).
 - 2. Man can keep the Law to be righteous. No, this is not true (Gal. 5:4; Heb. 7:19).
(The Law made nothing perfect.)
 - 3. Man can make sacrifice to be righteous. No, this is not true (Heb. 10:4).
- C. The correct answer is Jesus Christ. He will make men righteous! (Col. 1:26,27).
- D. The mystery is solved! We can be fellow-heirs, fellow-members, and fellow-partakers with the Jews in all these blessings.

II. PAUL HAS TO PREACH THIS MYSTERY (Eph 3:8-13).

- A. Eph. 3:8. He is a no good, chief of sinners. But has been given grace to preach this wonderful mystery revealed in X.
- B. Eph. 3:9. To bring out in the open the wonderful mystery of God.
- C. Eph. 3:10. Let all the world (Jew and Gentile) know the wisdom of God.
- D. Eph. 3:11-13. To have all men like X, is the mystery, God's plan from the beginning of time (Eph. 1:3,4).

III. "CHRIST IN YOU" WILL MAKE MEN RIGHTEOUS (Col. 1:26-27).

- A. The mystery was that the Gentiles could also share in the spiritual blessings to be given the Jews in X. This was not thought to be possible before the gospel.
- B. Christ in you, or you in Christ. Either way it spells blessings for the one who will yield their life to Him:
 - 1. What the Law could not do, God did in X (Rom. 8:3).
 - 2. Christ is the end of the Law (Rom. 10:4).
 - 3. Our confidence and salvation are in Christ (Heb. 10:19-22).
 - 4. Justification is by faith, for the Jew and the Gentile (Gal. 3:23-29).
 - 5. Those afar off are brought near through X (Eph. 2:11-13).
- C. Think again of the problems listed above:
 - 1. We are not made righteous by our own works,
rather, we are made righteous by the work of X (Eph. 1:7).
 - 2. We are not made righteous by keeping the Law,
rather, we are made righteous by the Law of X (Rom. 8:2).
 - 3. We are not made righteous by offering sacrifice,
rather, we are made righteous by the sacrifice of X (2Cor. 5:21).

IV. THE BLESSINGS OF "CHRIST IN YOU" (Eph. 3:6).

- A. First, we are fellow-heirs with Christ.
 - 1. The promise came to Abraham, that through his family all the earth would be blessed. To become a Xian, means you are now part of Abraham's offspring, an heir of the promise of blessings that God made to him (Gal. 3:29).

2. Now, it makes no difference if you are a Jew or a Gentile. There is no advantage, because in X, both are heirs.
- B. Second, we are fellow-members of the body of Christ.
1. This means they have been added to the church just as the Jews were added to the church on Pentecost (Ac. 2:47; 1Cor. 12:13).
 2. Our physical birth can cause racial distinctions, but the spiritual birth brings us into one body, where there are no distinctions (Gal.3:28).
- C. Third, we are fellow-partakers of the promise.
Look at 2:12 in reverse to see the wonderful promises now available:
1. Not separate, but joined with X.
 2. Not excluded, but included in the commonwealth of Israel.
 3. Not strangers, but members of the covenant relationship.
 4. Not hopeless, but having a great expectation of future blessings.
 5. Not godless, but have a loving and all-powerful God and Father.
- D. All of this through X; as explained in the mystery revealed by the gospel.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Now is the time to become a PRISONER of X.
Become a Xian, completely resigned to doing His will. When you are a prisoner you no longer have a choice as to whom you will serve--you will serve your captor.
- B. Now is the time to become a STEWARD of God's grace.
Once saved, you know the importance of grace, take good care of it by living faithfully unto death.