

What in the World is Going On Here?

Ephesians 3:1-13

October 22, 2017

BIG IDEA—The gospel is “good news” to people of all ethnicities and gives a glorious glimpse into what God is doing in the world.

1. Paul begins to **pray** and remembers something 3:1
2. God gave Paul **insight** into His plan for all peoples 3:2-6

What is “mystery of Christ?” The nations (Gentiles) are

Heirs	}	together with Israel
Members		together of one Body
Sharers		together in the promise (Gen. 12:3)

3. God’s plan is now known and Christ changes everything 3:7-13

Christ changed Paul’s life 3:7-9

God **saved** the “*chief of sinners*” (1 Tim. 1:15-16)

God **used** one who was “*less than the least*”

Christ changes all who are in His Body 3:10-11

His Church displays His wisdom (1 Cor. 2:7)

His Church displays His **beauty** (also 1 Peter 4:10)

His Church displays His endless **reach**

His Church displays His eternal plan

Christ changes our approach to God 3:12

We come through **faith** in Christ

We come in freedom in Christ (2 Cor. 3:17)

We come in **confidence** in Christ (Heb. 4:16)

Christ changes how we view our circumstances 3:1 and 13

Life Group Homework

What insight, observation, or principle did you find eye-opening, troubling or helpful from this week’s sermon?

1. READ Matthew 20:1-16. Is it fair to Jews for God to grant eternal life to Gentile ‘latecomers’ by grace through faith?
2. READ Acts 15:5-11. Peter is speaking before the Jerusalem council deciding whether or not Gentiles needed to convert to Judaism to be saved. What was Peter’s conclusion (15:11)?
3. READ Ephesians 3:2, 7-8. When God called Paul to preach the mystery of Christ, what did He supply along with the calling?

Tell of a time when God supplied what you needed to serve Christ in a specific ministry.
4. READ Hebrews 10:19-22. On what basis can Christians come into God’s presence? Is this how you to “draw near to God?”