

Message Series:

Membership Has Its Privileges
A Study on Ephesians 1-3 Belonging to Christ
May 10, 2009

Today's Message:

God's Great Ministry Plan Revealed
Ephesians 3:1-13

Ephesians 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.

Today's Main Thought: Gentiles are made partakers along with the Jews of God's great blessings in the church.

Mystery – A truth previously hidden from human knowledge or understanding but now disclosed by the revelation of God.

God's Great Ministry Plan Revealed the Promise
Ephesians 3:6

- Together we are joint-heirs with Jews of the same blessing, Ephesians 2:21-22; Hebrews 11:9; 1 Peter 3:7; Galatians 3:26-29 Colossians 1:25-27
- Together we are fellow-members of the same body, Ephesians 4:15-16
- Together we are fellow participants in the same promise in Christ Jesus, Galatians 3:14, 28, 29; 2 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 8

We have the promise of...

- The Messiah
- Salvation
- The Holy Spirit

Getting Started: Who is your favorite mystery writer? What is your favorite mystery movie?

Digging Deeper: What was Paul's view of the mission God had given to him (read verses 7-10)? Why would Paul consider himself "less than the least of all God's people" (review verse 8)? What important mission does the church have in God's plan? What wonderful benefit of being in Christ is mentioned in verse 12?

Living It Out: On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) with how much "freedom and confidence" do you approach God?

List who or what stands between you and God.

What do you need to change to heighten your level of confidence in approaching God?

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Next Week: #11 in series
Ephesians 3:14-21