

**INTRODUCTION**

- \* In his letter to the church of Ephesus, Paul exhorted the believers to "walk worthy of the calling with which they were called."
- \* We have seen that God, in His Sovereignty and according to His grace, has established that man could be delivered from the consequences (wages) of their sin through faith in the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.
- \* But ... is this salvation only available to those in Israel? ... Israel had always been viewed as "the chosen people."
- \* Fortunately, for us Gentiles, the answer is an emphatic NO! The free gift of God is extended to ALL who believe.
- \* Today, we see further revelation of the plan of God which He established before the foundation of the world. In this portion, Paul reveals the mystery of Christ - the formation of the church through our reconciliation to God, and one another, by the propitiation of Christ.

**INSTRUCTION****I. THE DECLARATION OF THE RECONCILIATION OF CHRIST****A. The M\_\_\_\_\_ of the Gentiles (v. 11-12)**

1. WE HAD NO C \_\_\_\_\_
2. WE HAD NO H \_\_\_\_\_

**B. The M\_\_\_\_\_ of the Savior (v. 13-17)**

1. B\_\_\_\_\_ THE MIDDLE WALL OF SEPARATION (v. 14)
2. N\_\_\_\_\_ THE ENMITY OF THE LAW (v. 15)
  - \* abolished (katargaeas - to render idle or useless) - Rom 3:3,31; 6:6; 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 13:8,10,11; 15:24,26; Gal 3:17; 5:4,11
3. S\_\_\_\_\_ HIMSELF ON THE CROSS (v. 16)
4. P\_\_\_\_\_ PEACE TO THE GENTILES (those afar off) AND THE JEWS (those near) (v. 17)

**C. The U\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church (v. 18-22)**

1. WE HAVE THE SAME A \_\_\_\_\_
2. WE HAVE THE SAME C \_\_\_\_\_
3. WE HAVE THE SAME F \_\_\_\_\_
4. WE HAVE THE SAME C \_\_\_\_\_

**II. THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH****A. The Means (v. 1-7)**

1. THROUGH THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS (cf. 2 Peter 1:16-21; 3:2-3; 3:15-16; Jude 1:17-19; Matthew 23:34-36; Luke 11:49-51)
2. THROUGH THE GIFT OF THE GRACE OF GOD (cf. Romans 1:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:8-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-15)

**B. The Purpose (v. 8-13)**

1. THAT WE SHOULD MAKE KNOWN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY TO THOSE IN THE WORLD
  - \* cf. Romans 11:25-28; 16:25-27
2. THAT WE SHOULD MAKE KNOWN THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD TO RULERS AND AUTHORITIES IN HEAVEN
  - \* cf. James 3:13-17; 1 Corinthians 11:10

**INTROSPECTION**

- \* HAVE YOU BEEN RECONCILED TO GOD?
- \* IS THAT RECONCILIATION APPARENT IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BELIEVERS?
- \* ARE YOU ACTIVE IN SHOWING FORTH THE FELLOWSHIP AND ONENESS OF THE CHURCH?
- \* WHAT "WISDOM" DOES YOUR LIFE REVEAL?
- \* IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

**INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion**

- \* How does the unity of the church affect our evangelistic efforts? How does this apply beyond the local assembly?