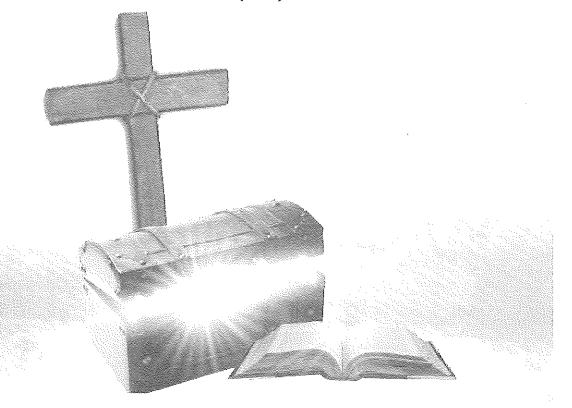
TRUE TREASURES

LESSON 8 The *Treasure* of Belonging

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone,..."

Ephesians 2:19-20 (ESV)



TRUE TREASURES

Lesson 8 Ephesians 2:19-22 The *Treasure* of Belonging

A LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE TODAY

- A. We have feelings of a lack of belonging.
 - 1. We live in a culture that feels alienated.
 - 2. Why are we here?
- B. "Now, therefore..."

THE TREASURE OF BEING A "NEW HUMANITY"

A. We are a new **nationality**.

2:19a

- 1. Patriotism becoming **naturalized** citizens
- 2. Patriotism becoming "super-naturalized" citizens
- B. We are a new family.

2:19b

- 1. We are family with God's **people**.
- 2. We are a part of God's **household**.

THE TREASURE OF BEING GOD'S TEMPLE

2:20-22

- A. The first element of the temple is the **foundation**.
- B. The most important element of the temple is its **Cornerstone**.
- C. The last element of the temple are the building blocks.

SUMMARIZING THE TREASURES WE POSSESS

- A. We <u>belong</u>.
- B. We are His **dwelling** place.
- C. We need to **apply** the Truth to our everyday.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON 9

"...the word 'mystery' means something which is beyond natural knowledge, but has been opened to us by divine revelation through the Holy Spirit....It is something previously undreamed of which is now disclosed to believers - an open secret."

R. Kent Hughes

Read Ephesians 3:1-13. Day 1 1. What is the central truth of this passage? 2. What are some key words in this passage? What is their significance? Day 2 How did Paul describe himself in verses 1-2? In verses 7-8? See also I Timothy 1:15 and I Corinthians 15:9-10. What can you learn from this perspective and how does it apply to your life?

	
4.	What do you think Paul's suffering was in verse 1 and verse 13? See also I Corinthians 4:9-13. What was his attitude toward it? How does this apply to you?
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Da ; 5.	y 3 In verses 3-6, what is the "mystery" that the Apostle Paul refers to? Why does he describe it in the way he does in verse 8?

6.	How does he describe what we have in Christ in verse 8b? What does he mean?
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/.	According to verse 9, what was the purpose of revealing the "mystery" to world? See also John 13:34-35.
8.	According to verses 10-12, to whom else is this mystery revealed? Why do you think God planned that? See also I Peter 1:10-12.
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10.	What specific lesson did God teach you through the study of this passage? How will it change you?
11.	Summarize in practical terms the treasure you possess, through Christ, according to this passage.

OPTIONAL: For further study read Job chapter 1 and describe the suffering he endured and why. How does his life relate to Paul's as he describes his suffering in 3:13? See also II Corinthians 11:24-29. What kinds of suffering are not worthy according to I Peter 2:19-23 and 4:15-16? Describe how all this applies to your life and what you have learned.

OPTIONAL CHALLENGE: Memorize Ephesians 3:13.