

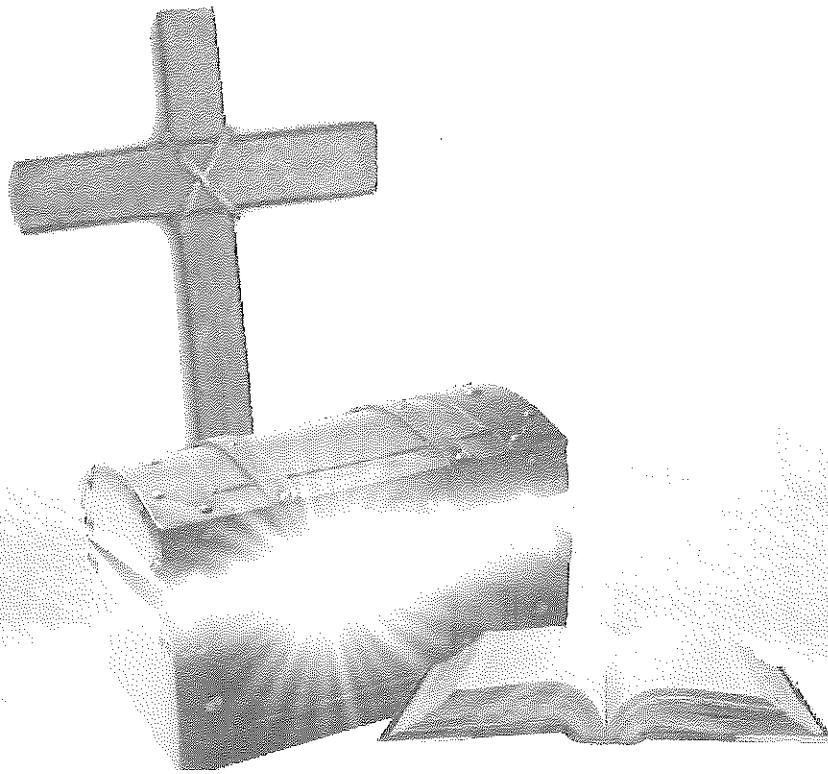
# TRUE TREASURES

## LESSON 9

### The *Treasure* of Revealed Mystery

“This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Ephesians 3:6  
(ESV)



# TRUE TREASURES

## Lesson 9 Ephesians 3:1-13 The *Treasure* of Revealed Mystery

### THE APOSTLE PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON HIS CIRCUMSTANCES

3:1

- A. What were the circumstances in Paul's life?
1. He was a **prisoner** in Rome.
  2. What would it have **been like** for Paul?
- B. What was his **point** of view?
- C. How does this **relate** to us?

### THE TREASURE REVEALED

3:2-6

- A. How was the **mystery** defined?
1. It means something that is beyond **natural knowledge**.
  2. Three terms to describe the **mystery**.
    - a. **Heirs** together
    - b. **Members** together
    - c. **Sharers** together

- B. What was Paul's **perspective**?

3:7-8a

C. What was the **purpose** for opening the "mystery"?  
3:8b-11

1. The first purpose was to **preach** Christ to the **Gentiles**.
  - a. That **all** will hear about the **riches** in Christ Jesus
  - b. The definition of "**unsearchable** riches"
2. The second purpose was to **inform** the world of the **church**.
3. The third purpose was to **inform** the **angels**.

"It is through the old creation (the universe) that God reveals His glory to humans; it is through the new creation (the church) that He reveals His wisdom to angels."

John Stott

SUMMARIZING THE TREASURES WE POSSESS 3:12-13

- A. We have the **freedom** to approach God with confidence.
- B. We have a sense of **eternity** in our everyday lives.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON 10**

*"It 'love' is so long that your old age cannot wear it out,  
so long that your continual tribulation cannot exhaust it,  
your successive temptations shall not drain it dry,  
like eternity itself it knows no bounds."*

Charles Spurgeon

Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

**Day 1**

1. What is the central truth of this passage?

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2. What are some key words in this passage? What is their significance?

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3. In verses 14-15, what posture was Paul taking before the Lord and why? What does his posture signify? What is his attitude toward God?

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**Day 2**

4. What specific thing is Paul praying for the Ephesians (and us) in verses 16-17? What does that mean practically in your life?

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5. Describe what Jesus does in verse 17a. How does it happen? Would He be comfortable there in your life? Why or why not? How could you be more "hospitable" to Him? See also John 14:23. Read Genesis 18:1-8, a story of hospitality shown to the Lord. How is that relatable to your life in this day and time?

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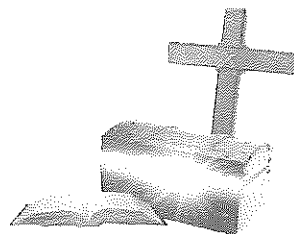
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**Day 3**

6. How is God's love described in verses 18-19a? Give practical life examples of what that means. How should that make us respond as women? What does "surpasses knowledge" mean in verse 19a?

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7. How are God's workings in our lives described in verse 20? How should that be practically lived out in our lives? What is the key to God's working in this verse? Why do you think we live so far beneath that "fullness of God - His power" (verses 19b and 20)?

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**Day 4**

8. Summarize what Paul is saying in verse 21? What is the emotional context from which these words spring?

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9. Paul's focus shifts his emphasis somewhat in verses 20-21 as he closes this section of his letter. What do these two verses teach you about God? Your relationship to Him? God's purposes for all believers?

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**Day 5**

10. Summarize Paul's prayer request, reflected in this passage, for the Ephesians and for us as we study it in our time frame. What is the good news concerning this request according to I John 5:14-15?

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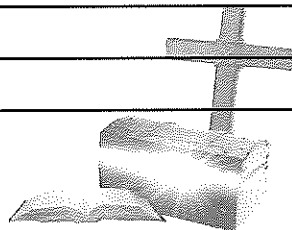
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11. Summarize in practical terms the treasure you possess through Christ, according to this passage.

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**OPTIONAL:**

Verse 20 teaches how God's power is available to us "immeasurably more than we ask." How does Paul describe that in his own life in I Corinthians 2:4 and 4:20? Read II Corinthians 6:3-10 and explain Paul's life experiences and the secret of his perseverance. See also Acts 1:8. How does this apply to your life? Be practical and specific.

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**OPTIONAL CHALLENGE:** Memorize Ephesians 3:20.