**July 2, 2017 “The Unfathomable Riches of Christ”** **Ephesians 3:7-13**

If you will remember, when we first started to study chapter 3 of Ephesians, I pointed out to you that the opening statement found in verse one does not contain a verb. There is no action word here at all. It is almost like Paul starts out to say one thing and then in the middle of his statement or thought, he stops and says to himself, “I have to make sure they have understood the importance of things I have shared with them previously”. So, in mid-sentence he stops and reiterates a number of the things which are vital to their understanding of God’s incredible grace.

He speaks of the “mystery of Christ”. This word does not mean as we discussed something spooky or sinister but rather it means, “Something that has been hidden until the appropriate time in which it is to be revealed”. There are many things that were hidden from the saints of the OT that were made known later on in the life of Christ.

The mystery of the incarnation… God would send His Son into the world… Isaiah 7:14… “a virgin will be with child and bear a son and she will call His name, Immanuel”.

The mystery of the Christ… Ephesians 3:4-6

The mystery of the Holy Spirit… Joel 2:28-29… on all mankind… even those dog Gentiles?

The mystery of Babylon… Revelation 17:3-7

Of these mysteries, I am a minister

1. Ephesians 3:7… I was made a minister
   1. Minister… Diakinos
      1. A servant
         1. Not a high-ranking servant but rather
            1. Busboy
            2. The dishwasher
            3. The mop boy
      2. “One who obeys the commands of his master”
         1. I Corinthians 4:1-2
            1. Consider us to be like “galley slaves”
            2. Illustration of Ben Hur
            3. Chained to the floor, rowing to the beat of the master
   2. One of the great problems in the Church in America today
      1. We have
         1. Education, accreditations and erudite elocutionists
         2. A. R. Trotter
            1. Interviewing a new applicant for ministry

Do you know how to pick cigarette butts off the ground?

Do you know how to plunge toilets?

Do you know how to carry out trash?

* + 1. Paul said… “I was made a galley slave”
  1. He reiterates in Ephesians 3:8… the least of the saints

1. To preach the “unfathomable riches of Christ”
   1. How does anyone do that?
      1. Recognize your status
         1. I am a sinner just like all of you
         2. I will never be anything but unworthy of this calling
   2. But to preach
      1. Not to brow beat anyone
      2. But to tell them of the unmeasurable riches in Christ
         1. Unmeasurable Grace
         2. Unmeasurable forgiveness
         3. Unmeasurable mercy
         4. Unmeasurable righteousness
            1. Robe of righteousness
            2. Crown of righteousness
   3. Ephesians 1:7
   4. Ephesians 1:18
2. Why?
   1. Might be known through the church
   2. To whom?
   3. Hebrews 12:1-2
      1. Cloud of witnesses
         1. Ephesians 3:10
            1. “to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places”
         2. I Peter 1:10-12
         3. Luke 15:10
   4. Ephesians 3:11… in accordance with the eternal purpose of God
      1. What is the eternal purpose of God?
         1. That all Glory and Honor and Praise
            1. Revelation 4:11
            2. Revelation 5:13
      2. Philippians 2:9-11
3. Don’t lose heart in my tribulations
   1. All this is for the eternal Glory of God