

## **Ephesians 1:7-12**

**“7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;  
8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;  
9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:  
10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:  
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:  
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ”**

**Paul continues his thoughts to the Ephesian church regarding the fact that they were in the plan of God from the beginning of time. They, the Gentile nations of the world, were included in his salvation plan from the start. We, the Gentiles, are redeemed the same way that the Jews are redeemed - through Christ blood and the forgiveness of our sins.**

**In verse 8 when he uses the word prudence - the definition of that word is fore thought. A prudent person is one who thinks about his actions before he does them. God abounded in His wisdom and “fore thought” towards the Gentile nation. He gave thought to them regarding their need to be saved BEFORE He created anything.**

**In verse 9 Paul states that God has made known unto the Gentiles the “mystery” of His will. The word mystery by definition means, “Something into which one must be**

*initiated* before it is fully known.” Isn’t that an amazing thought? Something is only a mystery until you become a part or initiated into it and then you know the secret, you know the answer and it isn’t a mystery anymore. There are organizations that exist that we do not fully know what they believe or what they exist for. You have to actually become a member of these organization (Skull & Bones, the Free Masons) before you really know what they are about. However when you become a member they are no longer a mystery. You understand who they are, why they exist and the purpose behind them. The same is true here. Paul is stating that things seem to be a mystery until you are initiated or you become a member of the body of Christ and then the mystery can be understood. Many people try to use that word mystery as a cover for ignorance. They can’t explain the Bible, or understand truth and so they just say that God has kept it as a “mystery” right now. The only mystery for us right now is that we are trying to comprehend infinite things with a finite mind. That is why Paul said in Corinthians that we “see through a glass darkly now but one day we would understand everything.” Right now we just can’t completely comprehend an infinite God who has always existed, and could see the beginning to the end. But truth on how to be saved, who God is in his oneness, how to live a Godly, clean live those things are no longer a mystery to us. When we become an adopted son – we receive all the information that we need to unravel all the mysteries of God. We can understand how He could be our Father and our Son at the same time. We understand the reasons why He asks us to remain separate from the world. Our minds go from carnal to spiritual and we even though the world doesn’t understand why we live the way we do that is just because they have not been initiated into the family. Now we can better understand what is being said in I Timothy 3:16 (read this).

Paul continues this conversation with this Gentile church in Ephesus by saying that God will bring all things together as one in Christ. Remember he is speaking of the Gentile nation that was fore thought and planned to become one with the Jewish nation and both to become the sons of God together. Christ entire purpose on this earth was to RECONCILE or to bring together things. That is why is the mediator, or the one who takes things that are separate and reunites them. Christ, through His blood, reunites the human race with a Holy God. In heaven, before time began, it was in the plan of God to reunite the Gentiles into the body and then Christ came and did just that by reconciling everyone to Himself. What God planned in heaven became a reality on earth.

Because we, the Gentiles, are reconciled unto God - we actually become the adopted sons of God. But a legal adoption in the eyes of the law makes the adopted son the same as the biological son. There is no difference between them in regards to their inheritance, or their status. The adopted son receives the same inheritance as the biological son. In the eyes of God and the law they are one. Just because we enter the body a little later than the Jewish nation does not mean that receive any less of the promises of God or the inheritance that He has for us. In fact we are all considered the same before God. Every promise given to Abraham we are an heir of that as well.

Remember that Paul is explaining to this church in Ephesus who they are in God and how that they are not an after thought but rather they were fore thought into the plan just as the Jewish nations were. Paul is going to continue in our next devotional by reminding them about truth.