

- 01) What is the keyword in verse 11 (also in 13)?
- 02) What are the keywords Paul uses to describe our state before Christ (v. 11-13)?

GENTILES (*in the flesh*)

JEWS (*in the flesh*)

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- 03) How would you characterize this relationship?
- 04) What was the relationship between Gentiles and Jews before Christ (v. 14)?
- 05) What did Paul call this relationship before Christ (v. 15, 16)?
- 06) What is the key phrase in verse 13?
- 07) What are the key words Paul uses to describe the benefits we have in Christ (v. 13-16)?

- v. 13 -
- v. 14 -
- v. 15, 16 -
- v. 15 -
- v. 16 -

- 08) How would you characterize these benefits?
- 09) By what means did Jesus reconcile Jews and Gentiles (v. 14-16)?
- 10) In this context, what is the significance of verse 13 for Christians today?
- 11) What is the “peace” is that Jesus preached (v. 14, 17)?
- 12) What do all believers share (v. 18)?
- 13) According to verse 19, what is the result of Christ’s work?
- 14) What are some implications of the church being a body (v. 15)?
- 15) What is the main teaching of this passage?
- 16) How might we struggle with these same issues today?
- 17) How are you doing in your relationships with other Christians?
- 18) What needs to change in how you relate to others in the body of Christ?
- 19) Write down at least one step you can take this week to improve how you live “in the body” (thoughts and actions).

**Monday (v. 1, 2)** – Paul: God’s prisoner for you. God has a calling, a purpose and a mission for each one of us. Sometimes that mission is broad or general like the great commission (Matt. 28:19, 20); sometimes it is more narrow, like taking the gospel of Jesus Christ into our community. Sometimes God’s mission is specific and personal. Paul was called to be an Apostle, and even more specifically he was an Apostle to the Gentiles. What kind of things general and specific is God calling you to do today?

**Tuesday (v. 3-6)** – How was God going to do it? Paul calls it the mystery of the gospel, the mystery of how Gentiles would be included in God’s plan, the mystery of how God would bring reconciliation to such diverse people; but even more than that; the mystery of how a holy God could reconcile sinful, evil mankind to Himself. What a privilege it is to be alive today and to have the finished Scriptures. What a blessing it is to hold in your hands God’s revelation to mankind (v. 3).

**Wednesday (v. 7-9)** – Paul did not gloat or glory in his apostleship; he only saw it as the grace of God at work in his life. He tells us of his personal mission to “preach among the Gentiles,” “to make all see” and ultimately to help us fulfill our mission (which we will see tomorrow). As we go forward as a church my prayer is that we will adopt the attitude of the Apostle Paul—“to me who am less than the least of all the saints,”—that we would see our mission not only as a great responsibility but also as a privilege, a gift of the grace of God.

**Thursday (v. 10, 11)** – What is our mission? Well we all know (at some level) that our mission as believers in Jesus Christ is to make disciples (Matt. 28:19, 20). Did you know that as believers and specifically as a church we have an even greater mission? Our mission is much the same as the Apostle Paul’s: “to make all see.” Verse 10 says, “that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church.” Whoa, what does that mean? Join us Sunday to find out.

**Friday (v. 11, 12)** – We now have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Christ. One of the amazing truths of the gospel is that we now have direct access to God the Father through faith in Christ. Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Prayer is a privilege that is too often over-looked. It is a spiritual discipline but it should also be a joy. We have confident access to Almighty God and if we are going to be effective in fulfilling our mission we will have to be “bold” in prayer.

**Saturday (v. 13)** – Paul was concerned that the Ephesian believers would become disheartened by his trials and troubles. Wow, the Apostle Paul set such a great example! He was less concerned about himself or his circumstances, his trials or his pain, than how those “tribulations” might affect others. He also told them his tribulations were for their “glory” (benefit). Paul was willing to go through any trial or take any suffering because he knew that God was at work in his life; and not only that, but God was at work in the lives of all of His people. A big part of fulfilling our mission today lies in how you respond to trials. How should you respond when life is hard (1 Pet. 4:13)?