

Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

Title: God's Great Secret

I. The Secret Revealed

- A. Paul described the way in which the gospel was revealed.
 - 1. It was revealed directly to him.
 - 2. It was revealed deliberately at that time in history.
- B. God revealed His gospel in the way and at the time that was best.
 - 1. It was best for humanity.
 - 2. It was best for His glory.

II. The Secret Restores

- A. Paul described the effects of the gospel on Gentile believers.
- B. The gospel continues to restore the lives of those who accept it.
 - 1. It restores our spiritual fortunes.
 - 2. It restores our fellowship.
 - a) With God.
 - b) With Fellow believers.
 - c) With Creation.
 - 3. It restores our favor with God.
- C. Humanity has searched for plans and programs to restore a broken life, but nothing contrived by man can accomplish what the gospel does.

III. The Secret Relayed

- A. Paul described his responsibility in relaying the message of the gospel to the world and to the Gentiles specifically.
- B. What Paul learned about relaying the gospel can be applied to us today.
 - 1. The opportunity to declare the gospel is a gift.
 - 2. Proclaiming the gospel is only effectual through the power of God.
 - 3. The proclamation of the gospel knows no rank.
 - 4. The proclamation of the gospel is not selective.
 - 5. The proclamation of the gospel is farther reaching than we know.

IV. The Secret Realized

- A. Paul described some of the realized consequences of the gospel.
- B. We experience those same consequences today.
 - 1. Confidence to come into the presence of God.
 - 2. Comfort through times of affliction.