



SERIES: Ephesians

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Monday, January 25, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 3:8-9

TITLE: Open the Treasure Chest

Do you remember the movie, *The Goonies*? That is one of my favorite movies from my childhood. I mean, who wouldn't want to be a Goonie? They got to go on an amazing adventure to find the hidden treasure of One-Eyed Willy. And in the end, they did!

We all dream of finding and keeping treasure, or winning the lottery, or something equivalent. But what most of us forget is, we have endless treasures available to us. What do I mean by that?

Listen to what Paul told the Ephesian churches in Ephesians 3.

Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. ⁹I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. (Eph. 3:8-9, NLT)

Paul's words are breathtaking. He recognized that because of his past life as a persecutor of the church, he was the most undeserving of the gift of Salvation. I mean, I don't know what you've done in your life, but it probably pales in comparison to the life of Paul. It is true he was a very religious Jew. He was the best at his religiosity, but it couldn't save him. Not only that, but his zealotry led him to hunt down Christians, even to the point of death. That's a sad backstory, but God saved him, and gave him access to "the endless treasures in Christ".

"Endless" is a poor translation. It should be translated "unfathomable". This word is found nowhere outside the Bible. It's a play on a word that refers to a tracker who follows footprints. Paul is saying, you can search high and low – near and far - but you will never find a treasure like what God offers you in Christ.

What are these treasures? Well, Romans 11:33 says, "Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!"

We have access to His truths and His blessings. We have access to God and all He has. His treasure includes His provision to His children. His treasures are His kindness and mercy for our daily sins and rebellion. His riches include His unconditional and unending love. All good things come from God, and they are ours in our treasure chest. We have access to His Word and His knowledge, and His wisdom. We have immediate and unlimited access to God, whenever we need Him. We ultimately get citizenship to Heaven as adopted children of the King. Because we are His, all things work together for good. Only His children can claim that.

These are the unending and unfathomable riches and treasures in Christ Jesus.

My challenge for you today is not to settle for the treasures that the world offers. Too many of us forget, or don't know, about these incomprehensible treasures of God, so we settle for a mediocre life. We settle for what the world offers, which is the off-brand, knock-off fool's gold, when God says, "The real treasure is yours. Come and enjoy it."

Pursue God's best today. Enjoy the treasure of the King. And then share the treasure map – the Gospel – with those who need it.

"Goonies never say die". But Christians never settle, and Christians never really die.