



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, 08/20/2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:26-27

TITLE: The Inclusive Gospel

Are you an includer? My son is an includer. He is always keeping his eyes and ears open for the down and outer. He is aware of those who are left out and hurting. He invites them in when they least expect and maybe least deserve it.

Well, Christ does the same thing today. He is an includer. This inclusion was a mystery with immeasurable value. What do I mean? Let's continue our study of Colossians for the answer. Paul writes in Colossians 1:26-27 (NLT).

“This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God’s people. For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.”

What an incredible reality Paul describes here. The gospel message, according to Paul, was a secret or a mystery. Well, what is so mysterious about it? It's that salvation is offered to everyone, not just the Jews. The Messiah was not being sent just to save God's chosen people, but all whom God chooses.

You see, there is no partiality when it comes to the gospel. It's not only for Jews. It's not only for white people. It's not only for rich people. It's not just for marrieds. The gospel is good news for everyone. “Red, brown, black, or white, they are precious in his sight.”

The true gospel message is unlike anything the world has ever seen or produced. Salvation is offered to everyone. It cannot be earned. It cannot be bought. It is not for a special class of people. You cannot do enough penance to get it.

That is why Paul says it contains the riches and glory of Christ. We, by grace, become adopted children of King Jesus. We become heirs of His Kingdom. Murders, alcoholics, sex addicts, adulterers, drug addicts, embezzlers, homosexuals, and you name it, get welcomed into the Kingdom. But then God makes them saints. They drop the sinner title and become new creations.

This reality of Christ in us is the deposit or the mark of a future reality. Our salvation does result in real change now, but also an eternity ruling with Christ forever. This is good news. It is glorious and rich news.

So here's my challenge for you today. Include someone who is far from God. Who is it you know who is outside of the family of God who needs the hope of redemption? Tell them in a

text, a call, a note, or a face-to-face that Christ came to save them. Share the scandalous good news with them. It is only in Christ they can find peace with God and hope for a glorious future. How can you show them this reality? How can you tangibly display what you will declare with your mouth?

Share in the comments below who you are going to include and what you will do. We will pray for you and them as they hear the greatest news of all time. It's my prayer they see Christ, hear Christ, and receive Him today.