Ephesians 3:4-12

- But now....is a transitional phrase informing the reader that what previously was in effect has been replaced with something different.
- Let's have a little fun and think of some past items we used <u>BUT NOW</u> have replaced with something else.
 - We previously made telephone calls from landlines...but now we all have a cell phone.
 - We previously would make mixed tapes...but now we have play lists and spotify.

- We previously had to roll the car window up and down manually....but now we have electric windows.
- We previously had to consult an atlas to find our destination... but now we have GPS on our phone.
- I previously used certain emojis...but now I hear they are uncool.



- But now phrases are found in multiple places in the Bible.
- They indicate for us a spiritual reality that needs to be investigated and appreciated.
- Today, we will share some of these passages from the Bible to see what we need to understand NOW!!!

• Previously people walked in darkness.....

BUT NOW THE MYSTERY OF GOD HAS BEEN REVEALED

- The Good News of Christ has been given.
- Ephesians 3:4-12
- Romans 16:26
- All men can be saved apart from the law Rom. 3:21 through Jesus Christ and his righteousness.

Previously God winked at the ignorance of man.....

BUT NOW HAS COMMANDED ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT

- Acts 17:30
- What does Paul mean by this statement?
 - Does it mean all men got a free pass for sins?
 - Or, does it mean something else.
 - Consider Acts 14:15-16

Previously Gentiles were separated from Christ....

BUT NOW BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST ALL MEN HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD

- Eph. 2:13
- Col. 1:19-23
- II Cor. 5:18-19

Previously we were enslaved to sin and lost....

BUT NOW WE ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF A LIFE TRANSFORMED BY GOD

- Rom. 6:22
- Gal. 4:9
- Eph. 5:8