

BIBLICAL MYSTERIES

When discussing the Parables and other Biblical subjects, we should look at them as GOD'S INFORMATION given to believers.

Biblical Truth, within these Mysteries, deals with the future; but, it also "TIES UP" things. These Mysteries blend Israel and the Church, for example. In short, Mysteries are the promises of God, but Divine REVELATION is needed before truth can be learned.

While, we understand that Biblical Mysteries are not spiritual secrets, they are not for just anyone, either. Clearly, revealed truth remains hidden unless one seeks, knocks and asks, becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

**"Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries
of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given,"**

Matthew 13:11.

BIBLICAL MYSTERIES FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND

Not all Mysteries are placed in parabolic form. Many mysteries become clear within the GOSPEL MESSAGE. And here, Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, desires everyone to know the position they have in Christ.

1. MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL - "His kind intention which He purposed in Him (Christ) with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth," Ephesians 1:9-10.

2. PAUL'S INSIGHT INTO THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST (Eph 3:4) - "That the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel," (V 6).

NOTE: It is important to understand that Verse 9 says this mystery was hidden from the beginning. Then, in Verse 10, the mystery "might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."

3. MYSTERY OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH (Eph 5:32) - Paul states that Christ loves the church ("because we are members of His body"); then quotes God's instruction to Abraham from Genesis 2:24, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife; And the two shall become one flesh."

There is a "fellowship" (Gk. Koinonia) in the Church, like no other. In His body, a believer joins in Christ's work that honors the Lord by fulfilling all that Christ has accomplished in the Gospel message of 1st Cor. 15:3-4.

He died; so, we died with Him (Col 3:3); He was buried; so, we have been buried into Him in baptism (Ro 6:4); He was raised; we have been raised, so we too (like Christ), "might walk in newness of life," Ro 6:4.

In order to participate AND fellowship in Christ's administration, a call to follow was made by Jesus. These men were baptized and gathered together for learning.

Jesus called these men His Church; which He established (Mt 16:18) during His time on earth.

In the Church, men have fellowship in Spirit and harmony in Truth. They speak the same things (Titus 2:15). Paul was in harmony with James and Peter (Gal 2:9) because they **"gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship."**

4. MYSTERY OF INIQUITY (2Thess. 2:7-10) - The antichrist is working already; but, he is restrained by the Holy Spirit - "by he who now letteth," V 7. When He is "taken out of the way" God will send a "strong delusion that they shall believe a lie," V 11.

No one wants to align themselves with "A LIE." That's why Christ established His Church body; to give them understanding that goes beyond this world. Yet, He said, **"When the son of man comes, will He find faith on the earth," Luke 18:8.**

We wonder if the delusion hasn't begun, already. Certainly, there is much confusion. On the one hand, mega-churches continue to grow - with the "feel good" message of a RAPTURE; while, WORLD NEWS presents a story of gloom and doom. People, even church people, are on edge.

Christ will, indeed, find faith when He returns. His "little Flock" will remain faithful to Him. But, it seems that the Holy Spirit's position of "restraining" is lessening each day. We need Paul's words to remind us that **"God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth"** (2nd Thess 13).

Further, Paul encourages the church to **"Stand firm and hold to the tradition which you were taught," V 15.**

5. MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF

HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Rev 17:5) - She is a religious institution that is evil; she hates truth. Her appetite for killing saints causes her to reel. She is drunk on the blood of martyrs.

In Revelation 17, we see the harlot woman riding on the back of the beast nations. They support her for awhile; for the harlot is needed to gain the world through religion. But, when the antichrist takes over the world, the harlot is killed, bringing sadness to the world; for she brought much trading and great monetary gain to the nations.

False religion will prosper, just as it has in the past. But the antichrist wants man to worship him, alone. He will demand that every man do so, or be killed. Satan won't allow false worship to continue through religion. He claims to be god, even usurping all authority by **"sitting in the Temple of God," 2 Thessalonians 2:4.**

In studying the Mysteries, we feel the necessity to put a name on every thing mentioned. We want to give exact location of where it's going to take place. But, in closing this Newsletter, we think it is enough to be aware that the last days are upon us. The words of Jesus need to be studied and understood and applied, like never before. What we think will occur in prophecy, should take second place to what we truly know about Jesus.

In the end, it will come down to the Person we worship. Christians have always bowed their hearts to Jesus. Never have they worshipped God through works of sacraments. There is no holy water, holy days or holy men that can forgive sin.

New Testament believers have always worshipped God in the church (Eph 3:21), where Christ is Head. But, in these last days - while, world religions join hands, running after the harlot; while, the antichrist takes power; and, while, we see the end drawing near, let us stand firm with Paul and his words on spiritual truth.

"Our hearts be comforted, being knit together in love, unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the **Mystery of God, and of the Father, and of the Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," Colossians 2:2-3.**

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