

The Mystery Hidden for Ages

Colossians 1:26

Colossians 1:25

25 **Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God*,**

By way of movement from verses 25-26, we have the answer to the question, “Why must I have a Pastor-Teacher?”

Why must I have this authority over me? Many people simply think that they are above the need of a Pastor-Teacher... well verse 26 will enlighten us.

Many believers think that at last they have arrived, they know all they need to know, “I am a Priest! I am an ambassador for Christ! I am in Full-Time Christian Service!”

Why do I need a Pastor-Teacher?

Because of all the things you just boasted of:

because you are a Priest;

because you are an Ambassador for Christ;

because you are in Full-Time Christian Service;

—because of these and many other reasons,

JESUS CHRIST appointed men with the gift of Pastor-Teacher.

Your responsibility is to be careful as to whose teaching you chose to sit under to grow in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

Verses 26-27 explains why
you need a Pastor-Teacher all your life.

There is a tremendous realm of biblical teaching in just these two verses. You have in these two verses “why” you will have a Pastor-Teacher all your life.

Colossians 1:26-27

26 ***that is, The Mystery*** which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,

27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this **Mystery** among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

that is: this comes from the previous verse— **The Mystery** is in apposition—not ‘opposition’ but apposition—the same thing:

So from end of **verse 25**

25 **...so that I might fully carry out.... the Word of God, the **Mystery**.**

Mystery: Doctrine of

The Doctrine of The Mystery

I Etymology (The origin of a word and the historical development of its meaning.)

- 1 The origin of this word refers to a **PERSON** (you) who was initiated into a Greek fraternity of the ancient world.
- 2 It is also derived from a Greek verb meaning **TO INITIATE**, that is to instruct in the secret **TEACHINGS** of a fraternity.
- 3 Paul transferred this noun away from its reference to the secrets of ancient **mystery** cults, and uses it in a technical theological reference to indicate that the Church Age was totally unknown in the Old Testament times, from Adam to JESUS CHRIST.
- 4 This should describe your entire life as a believer in Jesus Christ consistently growing in the Knowledge of the Word of God. The teachings of the fraternity were secret.
- 5 They were known only to those initiated into the fraternity.
- 6 The word **Mystery** refers to information hidden or not manifested.
- 7 And **VERY IMPORTANT TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS GREEK WORD**: The word **Mystery** in the New Testament does not refer to teaching or doctrines that are to be withheld and kept a secret, but it refers to

information not previously revealed to man, but is now to be proclaimed to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. And the bible is clear on who is appointed by God to proclaim these mysteries; every male with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher.

1 Corinthians 4:1

1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the Mysteries of God.

Stewards here refers to those appointed to administer or deal out or teach the mysteries of God, that is... the Pastor-Teacher.

- 8 So, this New Testament word refers to revelation previously hidden, but one that is now proclaimed, but also refers to a revelation that contains a supernatural Revelation.

II The primary use of this Greek word in the New Testament epistles is to refer to the Church Age and Church Age doctrines.

- 1 The mystery** of the Church as the body of Christ. Of course, since the Church was a **Mystery** (hidden) in all the Old Testament, it is not spoken of nor described. Since JESUS CHRIST was not yet identified, of course, the Body of Christ would be a **Mystery** throughout all the Old Testament. And therefore, the Church as the body of

Christ would have been a completely hidden truth. It was hidden but always part of the Plan of God (Doctrine of the Dispensations). The body of Christ is made up of all believers... Gentiles and Jews

Ephesians 3:1-11

- 1 **For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—**
- 2 **if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; *for your benefit***
- 3 **that by revelation there was made known to me **the Mystery**, as I wrote before in brief.**
- 4 **By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into **the Mystery of Christ**,**
- 5 **which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**
- 6 ***to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**

7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. (Holy Spirit)

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light what is **the administration of the Mystery** which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; (The Church Age has always been part of God's plan)

10 So that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*. (Angels)

11 *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Ephesians 6:19

19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness **the Mystery of the gospel**,

Colossians 4:3

3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth **The Mystery of Christ**, for which I have also been imprisoned;

So far, we have simply...

- (1) **The Mystery**
- (2) **The Mystery of Christ**
- (3) **The administration of the Mystery**
- (4) **The Mystery of the Gospel**

...where each of these are in reference to the Church as the body of Christ.

2 The mystery of the Church as the Bride of Christ.

Ephesians 5:28-32

28 **So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;**

29 **for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,**

30 **because we are members of His body.**

31 **FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**

32 **This **Mystery** is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.**

3 The mystery of Christ in us – the hope (assurance) of Glory
Colossians 1:26-27

26 **The Word of God... *that is*, **The Mystery** which has been hidden from the *past ages and generations*, but has now been manifested to His **saints**, (Members of His body by Faith In Him)**

27 **to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this **Mystery** among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

4 **The Mystery** of God, even Christ
Colossians 2:2

2 **that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's **Mystery**, *that is*, Christ Himself,**

Colossians 2:9

9 **For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,**

Corinthians 2:7

7 **but we speak God's wisdom in a **Mystery**, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;**

The presence of JESUS CHRIST in the Dispensation of the Church has always been a part of God's Plan.

5 **The Mystery** of how man is returned to Godliness in Christ.

1 Timothy 3:16

16 **By common confession, great is **The Mystery of godliness:** He who was revealed in the flesh, (Jesus the Christ) **Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.****

III This mystery is now revealed

Romans 16:25-26

25 **Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **The Mystery** which has been kept secret for long ages past, (past dispensations)**

26 **but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith; --obedience that is faith.**

Colossians 1:25-26

25 ***Of this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God,***

26 ***that is, The Mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, (past dispensations) but has now been manifested to His saints,***

Ephesians 1:9

9 **He (subject from verse 3 is God the Father) made known (revealed) to us The Mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (that is in Christ.)**

Ephesians 3:3-6

3 **that by revelation there was made known to me The Mystery, as I wrote before in brief.**

4 **By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into The Mystery of Christ,**

5 **Which in other generations (dispensations) was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**

6 **To be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**

Therefore,
the primary function of the Pastor-Teacher
is to teach all realms of this **Mystery** doctrine.

1 Corinthians 4:1

1 **Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of The Mysteries of God.**

1 Corinthians 2:7

7 **but we speak God's wisdom in a Mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;**

What is the point here?

First, there is no excuse for the believer to be ignorant of **The Mystery** doctrines of the church. Ignorance and arrogance are the two worst enemies of the believer which will cause the believer to make wrong assessment of his/her life and not have the priorities in life that touch into eternity.

It is the Pastor-Teacher's job to uphold by his teaching the mystery doctrines of the Church.

1 Timothy 3:9

9 ***but holding to The Mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.***

This means the Pastor-Teacher is to build on the foundation of JESUS CHRIST all the mystery doctrines of the Church.

Unfortunately, most pastors today like to teach something that is simple and that 'scratches the ears' of his assembly. Most prefer to preach on traditions and what the denomination believes rather than sound doctrine from his study of the Word of God.

IV **Mystery** is used by Paul to refer to the revelation of and teachings of the Church, which were hidden from ages past:

All periods before the Church Age, which began on the day of Pentecost.

The Gospel is not part of this **Mystery** for the gospel has been proclaimed throughout all history in every dispensation.

Some of these doctrines that were a **Mystery** in the Old Testament include:

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT;

which results in universal permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit of everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, be it a Jew or Gentile, therefore, resulting in every believer being in the Intensified Stage of the Angelic Conflict and in Full-Time Christian Service;

**AND THE GRACE RECOVERY FROM SIN
BACK INTO THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT;**

AND THE UNIVERSAL PRIESTHOOD—

not a specialized priesthood as in Age of Israel;
every believer making up the body of Christ
and becoming the Bride of Christ

(wedding will be in heaven after the Judgement Seat of Christ;

AND THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

will be on earth in Jerusalem right after the 2nd Advent —
right after the Battle of Armageddon and the Baptism of Fire
for all unbelieving Gentiles and the Baptism of Fire for all unbelieving
Jews and His establishing His Millennial Kingdom.

AN INTIMACY WITH GOD THE FATHER

in prayer and in living.

AND A UNIQUE SET OF REWARDS

for the believer who glorifies the Son of God, JESUS CHRIST, during
his/her life on earth by living by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

**V Paul gives a severe warning to those who do not
know **The Mystery** as it relates to dispensations.**

Romans 11:25

25 **For I do not want you, brethren,** (Believers in the Church Age) **to be uninformed of this Mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—**(Arrogance in ignorance) **that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;**

One of the most important results of Dispensationalism is the distinction between Israel and the Church and that the Church

does not replace Israel; therefore, God has a marvelous plan for Israel, which includes the 7 years of Tribulation. Then His return and sitting on the throne of David in the Millennial Kingdom.

Ignorance of Dispensations
Is Ignorance of Part of
The Mystery Doctrine.

VI Another warning to all believers is not to be arrogant of your Knowledge of the Mysteries.

1 Corinthians 13:2

2 If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. I am an echoing sound!

(Spiritual Love protects the believer from arrogance in life.)

VII A good place to see a non-doctrinal use of the word Mysteries is in Paul's discussion of speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:2

2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in *his spirit*, he speaks mysteries.

(He does not understand, and neither does anyone else. He jibbers a **Mystery.)**

VIII The Rapture is part of our **Mystery** doctrine.

1 Corinthians 15:51

51 **Behold, I tell you a mystery;** (I make known to you a **Mystery**) **we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,** (Doctrine of the Resurrection of every believer throughout the Church Age at the taking out of the Church or the Rapture.

Another part of **Mystery** related to the Rapture is found in **2 Thessalonians 2:7**

7 **For The Mystery of lawlessness is already at work;** (in the Church Age) **only he who now restrains** (the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit) **will do so until he is taken out of the way.** (And the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way with the removal of every believer of the Church Age whom He Indwells.)

IX JESUS CHRIST's use of the term '**Mystery**'.

In the four Gospel accounts of the same teaching by JESUS CHRIST; CHRIST refers to **The Mystery** of the Kingdom of God. Matthew 13:11; Mark 4:11; and Luke 8:10, where JESUS CHRIST explains to the disciples why He speaks in parables.

PARABLES ARE NOT DESIGNED TO MAKE THE MESSAGE CLEAR BUT JUST THE OPPOSITE; TO HIDE OR CONCEAL THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

X The Greek word **mystery** is used in four passages in Revelations 1:20; 10:17; and 17:5 and 7 where it refers to various mysteries of the Tribulational period.

XI Understanding the Mysteries of the Church Age absolutely requires the Filling of the Holy Spirit, the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, the enlightenment by the Holy Spirit.

This is seen in a careful study of 1 Corinthians 2.

1 Corinthians 2:7

7 **but we speak God's wisdom in a Mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;**

(Now look at Verse 10)

10 **For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.**

And the remainder of this chapter concentrates on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

(Verse 12)

12 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, (Holy Spirit) so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, (Mysteries of Church Age)**

(Verse 13)

13 **which things** (Mysteries of the Church Age) **we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts with spiritual words***

So that we can understand them in our fleshly bodies when Filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Verse 14)

14 **But a natural man** (This phrase refers to the unbeliever but includes every believer who is not in the Filling of the Holy Spirit but in the flesh) **does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.** (By and in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit)

(Verse 15)

15 **But he who is spiritual** (Filled with the Holy Spirit; Empowered by the Holy Spirit) **appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.**

(Verse 16)

16 **For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ** (This is from Isaiah 40 and is referring to the Holy Spirit who has been the subject all through this teaching.)

**So, it is imperative that one be a believer in JESUS CHRIST,
therefore, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and
then be Filled with the Holy Spirit or
Empowered by the Holy Spirit
…by Grace through Faith.**

It is so important

for Every Believer to Know

how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

by Grace through Faith

just as he was saved eternally.