

The Mysteries of Paul

Writing to the Corinthians Paul says-"Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the-'**Mysteries of God**'. " 1 Cor. 4:1.

In Rom. 16:25-26, Paul speaks of "My Gospel," which he also calls the "Revelation of the Mystery." More specifically, "mystery" means a kept "Secret since the world began, but now is made manifest." The mystery or "revelation" is what God spoke concerning Paul's ministry at the time of his (Acts 26:16-18),

Acts 26:16 "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a **witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.**"

Eleven (11) "Mysteries" are found in the New Testament. Of those, eight (8) were revealed to Paul. Of the remaining three, (3) one was revealed by Jesus, and two were revealed to the Apostle John.

Again, a "Mystery" in the New Testament sense is not something that could not be understood from just reading the Old Testament scriptures though there are references to them. Mysteries had to be revealed by the Holy Spirit. They speak of some plan, strategy, or purpose of God that was known to Him from the beginning. He has withheld from the knowledge and, more so, the understanding until the appropriate time.

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The listing below is an overview of the "**Mysteries of Paul**" found in the New Testament:

### 1. The Mystery of the "Incarnation." -Paul

**1 Timothy 3:16** "Without controversy great is the '**Mystery of Godliness**' God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

It is no mystery that God should reveal Himself by speaking from the Heavens, as on Mt. Sinai, but that He should take on the "Human Form" and "tabernacle" among us that was a great mystery. This He did in the person of Christ. **John 1:1-14**. So Jesus could say, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." **John 14:9**.

### 2. The Mystery of the "Divine Indwelling" -Paul

In **Col. 1:26-28**, Paul speaks of another "Mystery" which had been hidden from "Ages" and from "Generations," but was then made manifest to the saints. He calls it the Mystery of "**Christ in You.**" This is a great mystery because it is the mystery of the "**New Birth.**"

This same mystery caused Nicodemus to exclaim, "**How** can a man be born when he is old?" **John 3:4**.

The New Birth is wonderful, but it is a wonderful fact. It is the union of the Divine Nature and ours. So that just as Jesus became one with us by His taking our human nature, so we become one with Him by taking on the Divine Nature. The mystery of this union is that it is a union of "identity." We are just as much a part of Christ as the body members are a part of the body. **1 Cor. 12:12**. It is for Christ to live in us. **Gal. 2:20**.

### 3. The Mystery of the "Union of Jews and Gentiles in One Body Called the Church." -Paul

In his letter to the saints at Ephesus (**Eph. 3:1-11**), Paul says, that God by revelation made known to him the "Mystery," which in other Ages had not been made known unto the sons

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of men, "That the Gentiles should be 'Fellow Heirs,' and of the 'Same Body,' and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel."

It is almost impossible to overestimate the bitter "Race Hatred" that existed in Christ's day between Jews and Gentiles. It was a lofty "middle wall or partition" between them. The Jews looked upon the Gentiles as "dogs," and the Gentiles despised the Jews. It was worse than the caste spirit of India. It was, therefore, to them a revelation that, God was going in this Dispensation to take some Jews and some Gentiles and form of them a "New Body" called the Church. In Christ, all race and class distinctions disappear, and it is only in the Church that such a "Holy Brotherhood" can be found as the world seeks.

### 4. The Mystery of the "Kingdom of Heaven" -Jesus & Paul

When the Jews rejected Christ and thus prevented the establishment of the Kingdom, it took on another form, the "Mystery Form." To show the character of this "Mystery Form," Jesus resorted to parables. These parables are 12 in number and are found in Matthew's Gospel only. Jesus, through the parables, taught that the Kingdom would be taken from Israel and given to others, the Gentiles.

### 5. The Mystery of the "Resurrection" -Paul

In **1 Cor. 15:51-55**, Paul says-

"Behold, I show you a '**Mystery**'; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump."

This is the greatest of all mysteries because it reveals something that reason never dreamed of. According to reason, the common lot of man is to die, but to be taken off this earth and translated to heaven without dying was never thought of until revealed to Paul. For a full description of this Mystery, see the Chapter on "The Church."

### 6. The Mystery of "Israel's Blindness." -Paul

Writing to the Romans (**Rom. 11:25**) Paul says-

"I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of **This Mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that **Blindness in Part** is happened to Israel, until, the 'Fulness of the Gentiles' be come in."

This is not so much spiritual blindness as **Judicial** blindness caused by their rejection of Christ. This blindness is national and not individual, for we must not forget that the bulk of believers in the Apostles' day were Jews, and quite a few Jews have embraced Christianity since. The revelation of this Mystery to Paul was to account for what otherwise would remain a Mystery, the survival of the Jewish people as a race while scattered among the nations. See the Chapter on "The Jews."

### 7. The Mystery of "Iniquity" -Paul

In **2 Thess. 2:1-12**, Paul, speaking of the "Man of Sin" or Antichrist, calls his teaching and claims the "**Mystery of Iniquity**," which was already at work in Paul's day. The "Mystery of Godliness" is **God** manifest in the **flesh**, and the "Mystery of Iniquity" is **Satan** manifest in the **flesh**. This Mystery is fully explained in the Chapter on "The Antichrist."

### 8. The Mystery of the Church As the "Body of Christ" -Paul

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This was revealed to Paul and is disclosed in Eph. 5:22-33, under the figure of the relation of man and wife. "This is a 'Great Mystery'; but I speak concerning Christ and the Church." The first Adam had a bride, Eve; and the second, or Last Adam must have a Bride, the Church. This is a "Great Mystery" because it explains why there should be a "Parenthetical Dispensation" between the First and Second Comings of Christ, in which, by grace, a chosen people should be "called out" to form the Church, the Bride of Christ. This is fully described in the Chapter on "The Church."

### 9. The Mystery of the "Restoration of All Things"-Paul

This is spoken of by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (Eph. 1:9-10), as the "**Mystery of His Will**," and reveals how in the "Dispensation of the Fulness of Times," it is God's purpose to undo all that sin has done, and restore "All Things" as they were before the "Rebellion of Satan" and the "Fall of Man." How this is to be done is described in the Chapter on the "Renovation of the Earth."

### 10. The Mystery of "Iniquity" -Paul

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