



**A WONDERFUL DAY IN THE LORD  
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# Glorious Mysteries

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Today we begin a new study that will be a bit shorter on The Mysteries of God. Many years ago, I heard a sermon at a conference I attended where the pastor did an excellent job of explaining how the mysteries, as found in Scripture, unfold for us the secrets of God and also answers the questions that the whole world is asking. Questions that they have looked for solutions to but are unable to find answers. He showed them how each of the mysteries of God, that are in essence the secrets of God, have been revealed and actually unfold and answer those questions that people ask. Not only questions unbelievers ask, but Christians as well. As he talked about that and spoke about some of those mysteries, I was fascinated with that.

I, of course, knew about the mysteries in Scripture. There are twenty-seven times in the New Testament that the word "mystery" is found. Put together, they unfold thirteen different mysteries as found in Scripture. I knew about that, and I have studied some of those in an isolated fashion as they came up in studies I was doing, but I have never thought about unraveling the mysteries in the way that this preacher did. So, since that time, I have often gone back and thought about that and looked at that and preached these principles at times. So, I want to do that with us on this Wonderful Day in the Lord broadcast. I want to look at these thirteen mysteries. I want to look at them one-by-one and see what God has for us.

Let us start with the fact that a "mystery" is a secret of God that has now been revealed to us in His Word. There is no way we would ever determine these answers to these mysteries had they not been revealed to us. The good news is, although these things are hidden from those who do not know God's Word or know Christ, they are not hidden from those who do know Him. Similarly, to the parables that Jesus spoke telling His disciples that these things are hidden from the blind but revealed to the disciples, so too the other mysteries of Scripture are revealed to us who know His Word and believe in Christ. So, that is what a "mystery" is and that is what we are going to look at together.

In 1 Corinthians 4:1 it says, "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." Paul is talking about himself, and perhaps some of the other apostles, but by extension, at least, we too

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have the privilege of being stewards of the mysteries of God. Not simply servants of Christ, but stewards of the mysteries. Paul had been given direct revelation concerning these mysteries and that is what he unpacked for us in the epistles – explaining these things to us. We do not have that type of insight or revelation, but because we have the inspired Word of God, we can go back and look at those mysteries ourselves and proclaim them. We can grasp them, apply them to our own lives, proclaim them to the church and to any unbeliever who would bother to listen. So, we have these secrets.

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With each of the mysteries that we look at we are going to take a three-fold approach:

1. Question: We will answer the questions that people are asking in relationship to that mystery. What question is this mystery going to address?
2. Answer: We will look at the answers. What does God say about that question and these mysteries? Here is the question, what is the answer that God unfolds for us in His Word?
3. Explanation/Application: We will look at some explanations of what that mystery is about and a bit of application.

We are going to unpack these thirteen mysteries found in the New Testament. We are going to see how they address the very questions that the whole world is asking and cannot find an answer to. Then we are going to look at God's answer to those things, and then we will give a brief explanation and perhaps application.

I hope you are excited about that. I am, and we will dig into the first mystery the Lord has for us next time.

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**March 1, 2022**

We are looking at the mysteries of God as found in the Scriptures. We began our study yesterday explaining that these mysteries are things found in the New Testament that reveal the secrets of God. God has secrets. There are things we do not know and things we cannot know. The only way we can understand these things is that God reveals them to us. The New Testament talks about some of these kinds of secrets. These mysteries that have been revealed for us. There are at least thirteen of those in the New Testament.

The first one is found in Ephesians 1:9-10 and it is called, *The Mystery of His Will*. We will look at those verses together. Ephesians 1:9-10 says, "He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 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 on the earth. In Him"

**Question:** Where are we headed? What is our destiny? How does it all wrap up and end? Where does it go?

The world has been asking this since the beginning of time. The world is often in turmoil about these things. Since the beginning of the fall of humanity, humanity has been at war with one another. Sometimes it is small skirmishes or just conflict between people. Other times, there are large major wars going on in the world and all these things cause us to question, why can't we get it together? Why is there all this conflict? Where will this end? Are we going to destroy ourselves in some kind of nuclear holocaust? Even as I record this broadcast, we are at great turmoil in the world right now. Not only do we have the normal issues that we see in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa and so forth, but now we have some major players who are making a lot of noise. Russia is seemingly invading Ukraine, and China is always antagonizing Taiwan. These are big issues that could escalate into major wars. So, people ask why we can't figure this out.

**Answer:** One day everything is going to be united under Christ. The world will not end in nuclear holocaust. It will not end with us destroying one another. It will end one day united under Christ. He talks about that saying, "He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention

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which He purposed in Him." We have the benevolence of God at play here. The good pleasure of Him. Ephesians 1:10 continues and says, "with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times." Now, we are looking at this administration that comes about in the fullness of times. That means when God ordains it. When all the players are in the right position. When God wants it to happen – in the fullness of the times – something will take place.

**Explanation/Application:** Ephesians 1:10 continues, "that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him." In other words, all these things are going to come under the power and the leadership of Jesus Christ. Of course, right now, God is sovereign. He rules over all things. Nothing happens that He does not ordain or allow to happen. Nothing is out of His control, but He is orchestrating all things for His good pleasure. He is orchestrating all things to a place, ultimately, that they come under the full and obvious mastery of the Lord Jesus Christ. He masters now, He is the Lord over all things, but one day He sums up all things in Christ.

So, this world may have a lot of bumps along the way. There will be some ups and downs, horrible tragedies, and some minor skirmishes. All these things perplex us, they bother us, they are on our minds and in our prayers, but ultimately, we know the end game. We know that ultimately all things are summed up in Christ, and therefore we have *the mystery of His* will revealed to us. The world does not know this and if they heard this, they would not believe it, but God is orchestrating all things according to the good pleasure of Himself under the leadership and the lordship of Jesus Christ Himself. The mystery of His will solves a multitude of issues for you and I who believe it.

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**March 2, 2022**

If you have been with us for the first two broadcasts concerning the mysteries of God, I hope you are excited about the ones we are going to look at in the future. We have seen that the mysteries of God are found throughout the New Testament. These secrets that God has revealed to us that we might know something of what He has planned for us. These mysteries answer the biggest questions that the world is asking, and it gives us, as Christians, the answers and comfort found in the Word of God. Last time, we looked at *The Mystery of His Will* as found in Ephesians 1. Today we are looking at *The Mystery of Lawlessness*.

We find this in 2 Thessalonians 2. The context of this chapter is in the end times. We are looking at a period of time in which the antichrist has now stepped onto the scene, and he is proclaiming himself to be God. He wants to be worshipped. He has deceived the world, so much so, that the world has turned against God and totally against Christ and we are seeing the ultimate end of the antichrist in this passage. Paul assures us in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 that what is now coming about at the end times in reference to the antichrist is not altogether new, it is just different in intensity, because he says, "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way." That is to say that this mystery of lawlessness has always been permeating humanity since the fall of Adam and Eve, and at the end of 2 Thessalonians 2:7 it says, "only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way."

**Question:** Let us look at the fact that we live in a world of lawlessness. We look around and once again we see that humanity can achieve great things. We have great scientific achievements, we have great medical achievements, we can do benevolent things to one another, kind and gracious things to one another. On a personal basis, we can be very good neighbors and very loving people, but we also know that the mystery of lawlessness is at work. Even as we can achieve these great highs and these wonderful things we also can sink to terrible lows. We can harm one another and hate one another for no good reason whatsoever. The very people that can give us wonderful achievements can also give us tremendous instruments of destruction and virtually everything we have ever created for

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good also has an evil side to it. Why do we have this up and down, this ambivalence in our own souls? We, who want to be good Christians, who do good and want to be good also find that within us is the principle of lawlessness and rebelliousness. That is what lawlessness means – rebellion and defiance. We can do such wonderful and loving things for others, glorify and praise our Savior, and turn right around and do ugly things to people. We can be gossips, mean-spirited, hateful, we can lust, be greedy, prideful and all sorts of things. These same people that love Christ and know Christ can do all these things.

What is going on here? The mystery of lawlessness is at work. It permeates everything in our world. Everything in our society and even within our own hearts, even as Christians. That mystery of lawlessness should not be such a mystery in some sense. The mystery is why can't we get over this and move beyond it? Paul is saying that this mystery is at work, and we need to understand that.

**Answer:** There is something right now restraining the mystery of lawlessness that keeps lawlessness from absolutely overwhelming us and everything in our world. What keeps us from absolute anarchy and from simply destroying everything? There is something that restrains that, but that is going to be taken out of the way it says here in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed," lawless one is speaking of the antichrist, "whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming." This mystery of lawlessness will ultimately be epitomized in this man of lawlessness. This one that has come in an attempt to dethrone Christ. As he makes that play, he is overwhelmed and defeated by Christ Himself. So, the mystery of lawlessness is ultimately replaced with Jesus Christ ruling from His throne and reigning over all the world in righteousness. That is the answer to the mystery of lawlessness, Jesus Christ Himself on His throne.

**Explanation/Application:** Don't get too upset about this mystery of lawlessness, or this man of lawlessness. If we know Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are not going to be here when these events take place. When he



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is revealed and ultimately destroyed, you and I will not be here on this planet. We will be with Christ Himself.

The mystery of lawlessness exists, it will ultimately culminate in the man of lawlessness, but the Lord will slay him. He will destroy him, and He will set up His throne of righteousness.

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**March 3, 2022**

We continue looking at the mysteries that are found in Scripture. Each of these mysteries that are found in the Word of God are answer that God is giving us to the dilemmas, problems and questions people are asking. Each of these thirteen that we are looking at together shows us something of the secrets of how this universe works as God has put it into place, and then turns around and tells us how God is going to solve those problems. So, when we look at the mysteries together, we find great answers to questions. We find wonderful solutions and I trust that at the same time we are given great comfort as well. The mystery that we look at today is found in 1 Timothy 3:16 and that is *the Mystery of Godliness*.

1 Timothy 3:16 says, "By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,  
Was vindicated in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Proclaimed among the nations,  
Believed on in the world,  
Taken up in glory."

This was maybe an ancient creed, a New Testament creed. This has very credo-language. This is something that people may have recited at church. So, it is a common confession. This is a confession dealing with godliness. This has very credo-language. This is all about Christ, so whatever the mystery of godliness is it is wrapped around the person of Jesus Christ. He was the One that was incarnated – came in the flesh. He was vindicated by the Spirit. The Spirit said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased," as He spoke for the Father. He was seen by angels, and He was proclaimed among the nations both at the time and now throughout the ages. He is believed on in the world by people from all nationalities, tribes, and tongues. Ultimately, He was taken up into glory at the Ascension. That is the mystery of godliness.

**Question:** We go to Colossians 2 to get more detail on what this means. Colossians 2:2 says, "that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit

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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, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." So, the mystery of godliness tells us that there is a solution to the issues, the problems, the sin, and the evilness of humanity. We have been trying to solve the problem of evil in our society for ages. We have passed laws, we do marches, we organize organizations and programs, and so forth in an attempt to stamp out sin. However, we cannot stamp out sin because sin is stamped in our hearts.

**Answer:** So, what we need is a Savior. What we need is one who can deal with the root cause of our godlessness. That is the mystery of godliness which says here, "God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself." Christ is the embodiment of God's answer to the problem of sin and evil. He goes on to say here, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." All these deep truths of God are all found and hidden in the treasures that the Lord has for us here.

I want to look at Ephesians 6:19 that deals with one more aspect of this same mystery. It says, "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." The mystery of godliness and the mystery of Christ and the mystery of the gospel are all wrapped together. I think they are one basic mystery with different ideas about them, or different prongs, so to speak.

**Explanation/Application:** Paul wants to be able to speak the mystery of the gospel. The gospel is the means by which God solves the issues of sin in our lives. It is the only means by which you and I can be right before a holy God. It is a mystery. No one would ever unravel this. No one would ever come up with this idea. It is a mystery. It had to be revealed to us in the Scriptures. Paul says I have this mystery, and you and I do too, we know this mystery, we have this mystery, we have the key to unraveling the greatest issue that anybody faces – the evilness in their own hearts. That mystery is found in Christ and proclaimed by the gospel. So, Paul wanted to be able to proclaim the mystery of the gospel as you and I should proclaim it as well.

I hope this gives you a wonderful day in the Lord as you contemplate this.

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**March 4, 2022**

Thank you for joining us as we are looking at the mysteries that Christ has given us in His Word. The mysteries are the secrets of God that have been revealed to us. They answer the questions that people are asking. Things that are on their hearts and minds. In many instances, they are answering questions nobody is asking because nobody has come up that even knows enough to know what the questions are. That is especially true when it comes to the unbelievers in relationship to Christ. We have looked at three mysteries this week and we will close out this week by looking at one more mystery. This is often seen as the most predominant mystery in the epistles. It is *the mystery concerning the church*.

**Question:** Ephesians 3:2-3 says, "if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief." Notice here this mystery was given to Paul in a revelation. That is how we know what the content of these mysteries are, through the revelation of Scripture. Ephesians 3:4 says, "By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ," so he calls it the mystery of Christ here, but he goes on, "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." So, in the past, like all mysteries, no one knew what these mysteries were, and they did not know the answers that were given in the mysteries. Here is the content of the mystery of Christ in Ephesians 3:6, "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." This is the mystery that is unraveled in several of Paul's epistles: that the Jews and Gentiles together would form the body of Christ. To understand this, you must go back to the inherent racism of that time. The Jews felt they were the special people of God, and in many ways they were. They were the chosen people of God, but they hated the Gentiles and they hated them so much that they really did not want them to have the blessings that came from God to them. They didn't want the Gentiles to be a part of that. When the church was formed and the Lord brought together, under this mystery of Christ, or the mystery of the church, the Lord formed a church made up of Gentiles and Jews in one body. That became a problem as you might imagine. We are two thousand years separated from this problem, so

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we don't quite see it as they saw it. But, if you were raised all your life to hate a certain group of people simply because they are not like you because of their ethnicity and then suddenly you are told by God that you are forming one body in Christ, and you are to meet together as one body week after week, and worship and partake of the Lord's Table, and fellowship, and hear the Word and so forth, and you are to do that with other people that you don't particularly care for simply because you have been taught otherwise, that is a problem.

**Answer:** So, the mystery of the church, the mystery of Christ, is that the Lord has chosen to bring together under one body, His church. That church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles. So, the issue of racism, really, is resolved in this. No Jew, who is a believer, should ever look down on anyone else who is not a Jew. No Christian should ever look down on anyone else that is not like them. In Christ we are all one. In Christ we are all equal. Therefore, the issue of this type of racism is removed, and there is one body.

**Explanation/Application:** In relation to Christ and His church Ephesians 5:32 says, "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church." In this chapter, he is comparing marriage to Christ and the church. He is saying that as a husband is to love his wife, and the wife is to submit to her husband, so too the church is like the bride of Christ. We submit to His leadership, His lordship, and He loves us with all of His being. So, there is this interplay of illustration of marriage with the illustration of what the church is like and they kind of explain one another. In this verse, he says, "the mystery is great," because he is speaking of Christ and the church. This one body coming together in love under the headship of Jesus Christ Himself as a bride adorned by her husband is a great mystery. Why would Christ, the holy Son of God, love us that much? That is a mystery worth our contemplation and our praise.

I hope that as we end this week on this subject that you are able to give the Lord great praise for the very fact of the mystery of Christ and the mystery of the church that we looked at today.

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**March 7, 2022**

Last week we began our series on the mysteries found in Scripture – God’s mysteries for us. There are at least thirteen of these mysteries in the New Testament. These are things that God had to reveal to us because we would never figure them out on our own. So, there are thirteen different categories that we find concerning the mysteries of God. These are revelations of the Lord. You could call them secrets, in a sense, they are the secrets that have to be revealed to us by God in the New Testament revelation that tells us about certain things. The one we are looking at today is especially needed because it is the *mystery of God’s wisdom* as found in 1 Corinthians 2:6-8.

**Question:** Here we are looking at the issue of life. What is the question on the table? What are people looking for? They are looking for some means of understanding life. In and of ourselves we struggle with that. People do not know their purpose or why they are here or what is next. So, although many people simply plod right on through life, others who try to think a little deeper, often become very discouraged and depressed and ultimately, they cannot come to the answer of: What is life all about?

**Answer:** The Lord unravels that for us in what we call the mystery of God’s wisdom. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 it says, “Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” He is saying here that there is a wisdom that the world misses. The rulers of this age, rulers of this world, philosophers of this life, and the thinkers miss this. They do not get it. The example of how bad that is we find in the last words that I read in Scripture: that the rulers of this world who thought they had it together crucified the Lord of glory. The ultimate misunderstanding of life is epitomized in the fact that they crucified God’s Son. What are people looking for? They are looking for answers to life! What is it that they cannot come up with? What are they missing? There are a couple things here. I will mention one today and one next time.

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The first one we would say is the gospel itself, or the means to eternal life, the means to having life with God. 1 Corinthians 1:20 says, "Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." How interesting is that? The Lord turns the wisdom of the world upside down and shows us the foolishness of their pursuits. No matter how they try to untangle life and pursue life, they cannot get there. What they are missing is the entry point to life, which is their salvation in Jesus Christ. He says that they preach to them a message of Christ, a message of the cross. This is a message the world has rejected and calls foolishness, but God shows the foolishness of the world through the message that is preached of Jesus Christ.

**Explanation/Application:** Jesus taught in the gospels, in John 4 for example, that He had the water of life, the springs of life. Only He has that. Only He is the way, the truth, and the life. So, the world misses out on that. They can't, in their own wisdom and understanding, come to the entry point of life and Paul reveals to us the mystery of God's wisdom. In God's wisdom, the entry point of life is salvation found only in Jesus Christ. The world would never figure that out. The world would never come to that conclusion without the revelation of God to reveal that to us. We would never know. We know now, because of the revelation of the Lord, that the gospel is the entry point to life.

That is part of the mystery of God's wisdom. We will look at the second part of that next time.

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**March 8, 2022**

If you joined us yesterday, you saw us open the book of 1 Corinthians 1 & 2 and begin to look at one of the mysteries that God has for us. We call it the *mystery of God's wisdom* based upon 1 Corinthians 2:7. As we look at that specific passage of Scripture, we see that what we are looking at is people seeking to find life, and they cannot find life. Therefore, there is a mystery here. There is a secret, so to speak. There is a way to life and a way to live life that in and of ourselves we never unravel. We never figure it out. So, we have one of the mysteries of Scripture, the mystery of God's wisdom. That began, as we saw yesterday, with the gospel itself. We saw the first part of that is that the entry point to understanding life begins with knowing Jesus Christ. That is the gospel, and we see that in 1 Corinthians 1:20-24.

**Question:** We are now going to move on from there. Once we have moved into life and have received Christ as our Savior and we have been born-again, regenerated and we have found life in Christ, what is next?

**Answer:** The second part of God's wisdom is that He reveals to us, through His Word, how we are to live life to His glory. Paul picks that back up in 1 Corinthians 2:9 which says:

“but just as it is written,  
‘Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard,  
And which have not entered the heart of man,  
All that God has prepared for those who love Him.’”

Normally this verse is taken out of context and made to refer to the future – that there are things being prepared for us by Christ Himself for our eternal living with Him in the kingdom in heaven. Although that could be true, and maybe we could press this verse that direction, that is not the context of what Paul is talking about. Paul is talking about life now. The fact that the world could never imagine what God has for His people. It doesn't enter their minds. It doesn't compute. He goes on to tell us how we can understand and know this wisdom of God for this life.

In 1 Corinthians 2:10 he says, “For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.” I think here



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he is talking about himself and the other inspired apostles. The Lord has revealed these truths to these apostles and to the prophets who wrote the New Testament and they in turn have written them down and have passed them on to us. I think he is talking about that revelation.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 says, "For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the thing freely given to us by God." Here is part of the salvation process, salvation blessings that we receive once we have come to Christ. We have been born-again and regenerated and now we have received not the spirit of the world, because the world can never come to the right understanding of life, but we have received the Spirit who is from God, the Holy Spirit Himself. It says, "so that we may know the *thing* freely given to us by God." If your Bible is open, you may notice that the word "thing," or in my Legacy Bible translation it says "depths," is in italics implying that the Greek word was not there. It was supplied by the translators to help us get a handle on the passage. So, another word could be there. I think in the context of wisdom, which is what he was talking about, perhaps wisdom would be a better word. He is saying here that we might know the wisdom graciously given to us by God.

**Explanation/Application:** 1 Corinthians 2:13 says, "which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." He says here that by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit they have been given the wisdom of God and they pass that wisdom on to us, originally orally, and then written down in the Word of God so that we might know the wisdom of God, the depths of God, the true life that is found in Him.

So, when we think about the wisdom of God, we find the entry point into that wisdom which tells us how to live life and what life is about, is the gospel. It is coming to Christ. Once we are in Him, and we have been regenerated, now we need life in which we know how to live that life, and that is found in the revelation of the Word of God that He has given us through the inspired apostles.

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We are going to touch on one more subject on this specific issue before we are through and that is why is it, with all that the Lord has provided for us, so many miss the point? That we will look at next time.

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**March 9, 2022**

We are looking at some of the mysteries of the New Testament. For the last two broadcasts we have been looking at one mystery found in 1 Corinthians 1 & 2 called the *mystery of God's wisdom*. The mystery of God's wisdom answers the questions: What is life about? How can we find it? The world searches for life. People have always looked for a reason to live and a purpose, but they can never really come to a correct conclusion because it is a mystery, a secret, hidden in Christ and can only be found through the means that God gives us. The first means, we have seen, is the entry point into this wisdom which is salvation. The second, is the revelation given to us in the Scriptures that is handed down through the inspired apostles and prophets of the New Testament.

**Question:** Now we move on to a kind of correlating issue. With the gospel being offered and with the revelation found in Scripture, why is that so many people simply miss it? Why do they not "get" the mystery of God's wisdom? What is missing?

**Answer:** Beginning in 1 Corinthians 2:14, it says, "But a natural man 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." This is an important verse for us because it tells us why the unregenerate, or the unsaved person, can't be "talked into" following the Lord. They don't get it! They don't understand it. In their natural self, as it says here, they do not accept the wisdom or the depths of the Spirit of God. Their natural disposition, their natural nature, resists the things of God. Their minds are darkened to the things of God, so they do not accept them, and they don't believe them, and they do not follow them. So, we have all of humanity who are not born-again who are in a spiritual darkness in which they cannot truly comprehend God, His Word, or life in general. That is the problem.

Then he continues in 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 to talk about the fact that those who have been born-again, regenerated and the Spirit lives within, can grasp these truths. 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 says, "But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." So, he goes to a different person here. He goes from the unregenerate, the

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unbeliever, in 1 Corinthians 2:14. They cannot “get it.” It is not necessarily that they are stubborn, or dull, or just don’t have a good thinking apparatus. It is that they are spiritually darkened to the things of God and so they don’t “get it.”

**Explanation/Application:** In 1 Corinthians 2:15 it says that those who are spiritual, he is not talking about the super spiritual as we think about it as someone who is way up on the ladder in a spiritual way. In 1 Corinthians he contrasts the natural person with the spiritual person. The natural person is a person who does not know Christ. They are just born that way. They are natural. The spiritual person is the person who does have the Spirit of God. They have been born-again, and they are not natural any longer. They are spiritual. So, the word spiritual there speaks of the one who is born-again, the one who is regenerate. Concerning that person, they “appraise, or examine all things.” We have now been given the capacity by the Spirit of God to understand life and to understand the Word that has been given to us and revealed to us. It says that we appraise all these things, but we are appraised by no one which I think means that the natural man doesn’t understand the believer.

So, you have probably been in a situation where you are living out the principles of Scripture and you have a certain mindset toward the things of God that the world just does not get. Your friends and neighbors and coworkers just don’t get you. Well, Scripture said that would be the case. It says in 1 Corinthians 2:16, “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” Who do you think does? We have the mind of Christ. We have been given a capacity to think like Christ. Obviously, we don’t have perfection like Christ. We are not omniscient, by any stretch of the imagination, but we now have the capacity to think like Christ, to process like Christ, and to understand life like Christ wants us to understand it as we absorb the teaching of God’s Word that renews our mind and our thinking.

So, this mystery of God’s wisdom is a beautiful thing. It’s the entry point of salvation. The unbelievers never “get it.” It is found in the revelation of God, and we have been given the capacity as Christians to think these thoughts after Christ.

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What a beautiful thought. I hope this gives you a wonderful day in the Lord.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 10, 2022**

We have been looking at the mysteries that are found in the New Testament. These mysteries reveal things to us that we never could figure out on our own. These are the secrets of God that He has revealed to us. We spent the last three broadcasts looking at the mystery of God's wisdom, a very important mystery about life. Let's move on to something very different today looking at Romans 11. We are looking at *the mystery of the partial hardening of Israel*.

Romans 11:25 says, "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery – so that you will not be wise in your own estimation – that a partial hardening has happened in Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." Each of the mysteries unravel some piece of information, something we want to know and something we can't figure out. The question is: What ever happened to Israel? If you are a reader of the Bible, you know that Israel plays a major part of the Scriptures, especially in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is Jewish literature, Jewish Scriptures, and it pertains almost exclusively, or at least wrapped around the Jewish people. We find all the way from Genesis 12, when God called out Abraham to form the Jewish nation, going right to the end of the Old Testament, that the Jews are front and center in all things.

In the gospels, that begins to change as we find that the Jewish nation. Of course, when Jesus came, He came to His own people and was born to a Jewish family. It says in John 1:11, "He came to His own, and those who were his own did not receive Him." So, the Jewish people rejected Christ and the gospel witness. All four gospels show the consistent rejection, by the Jewish people, of Jesus Christ. So, that is where we leave the gospels and Jesus is ascended. In the book of Acts, we find a transitioning away from Israel to a large extent and more and more toward the Gentile nations. Paul becomes an apostle to the Gentiles, and the Gentile world begins to receive the gospel as most of the Jewish people begin to back off. The Epistles are mixed, we deal with Jews and Gentiles, but increasingly, the Gentiles begin to monopolize the church. They have more Gentiles saved than Jews.

**Question:** The question then remains what ever happened to Israel? Is this still part of God's program? Does it have a future?

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**Answer:** Romans 9-11 answer that question. It is a very in-depth study, but it does answer that question, and it speaks of the mystery of the partial hardening of Israel.

God has not rejected His people. Look at Romans 11:1 which says, "I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!" So, has God rejected Israel? Is Israel done for as far as God is concerned? Paul says no and "may it never be." God is not through with Israel.

We come to Romans 11:25, after much other material, and he says that at this point of time there has been a partial hardening of Israel so that they are not turning to the Lord in masses. They do not recognize the Messiah. If Jesus came again today, they would do the same thing to Him. There is a hardening. They do not understand the things of God and they are not interested in Jesus Christ, and a partial hardening has happened to them.

Then he goes on to say that they are not done for, and that God is going to continue, ultimately, to work with them and bring them back to Himself. He has a place for Israel. Romans 11:29 is a very precious verse to them and us. Paul writes, "for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." What he means by that is that God will never renege on any promises. He gave Israel a calling and a gift, and He said they are His people and no matter what it looks like right now, God will never revoke that which He had given them. They are His people, and He still has a plan for them.

**Explanation/Application:** So, Romans 9-11 reveals a mystery. Has Israel rejected the Messiah? Yes. Are they hardened against the things of the Lord? For the most part yes with certain exceptions. Has God kicked them to the curb? Not at all. He has a plan for them and ultimately, they will be brought back, and they will be saved as a nation. We find that, not only in the New Testament as Paul talks about it here, but also in the Old Testament in Zechariah 12-14, for example. That is why Paul, I think, ends Romans 11:33-36 with a magnificent worship service. He is saying that as he looks at all the things that God does that are beyond our understanding, he just wants to bow down before Him and worship Him, and that should be our take as well. As we look at the things that God reveals to us, His mysteries, it should not lead us to being perplexed or upset, it should lead us to worship. It led Paul to worship, and I trust it does you and I as well.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 11, 2022**

We are grateful you take five minutes with us in your day to open the Scriptures and look at what the Lord has done for us. We are looking at the mysteries found in the New Testament. Today we are looking at another mystery. One that will take us to the end of the ages. We are looking at *the mystery of God*.

**Question:** How does this world end? I think people have thought about that and talked about that since the fall of humanity. There have probably been times when plagues have gone through, and wars have happened, and people have thought this is the end of the world. Right now, as we see some disturbing things in Ukraine and Russia and other parts of the world, as we have been coming through this coronavirus pandemic, as we know nuclear weapons are available today that could bring tremendous destruction, and we think about many other things that can disturb us, the question might be on our mind once in a while. How will all this end? What is the end game? If we don't know Jesus Christ and His Word, we are just guessing. Scientists come up with this idea or that, or politicians, or just common people. They are nervous about how the world is going to end. What is going to happen to us? They don't know. It is all guesswork. But, if we know Christ and His Word then we know that He has a plan, and we know how the Lord is going to bring all things together toward the end of time.

**Answer:** Revelation 10 talks about another mystery of God. Revelation 10:7 says, "but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets." "The mystery of God is finished." The mystery, again, is a secret that God is revealing to us in His Word. So, the mystery is how does this end? Do we have any clue? The book of Revelation, as well as other Scriptures, gives us not only a clue but a good deal of revelation about how God brings all things to an end. This verse is more preemptive. There is more in the book of Revelation that will be fleshed out, but the mystery of God is being revealed.

God will bring things to a closure in His time. When He does that, we know He will destroy all systems, nations, and peoples who resist Him and come against Him. Then He will set up His kingdom on the earth and ultimately,



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that will lead to the eternal state, the eternal kingdom, in which we will be with Him forever. At that point, the world as we know it ends and a new world begins. That world will be a world without sin, without the evil things that we see today. Without war, without disease, and we will live in a paradise that God created for us to live in forever. That is how the world ends. When we think about that, in this passage of Scripture, when He talks about the ending of the world as it comes together, I want you to note in Revelation 10:7 where it says, "as he preached to His servants the prophets." In other words, this message, this mystery, that is being revealed in the book of Revelation is good news to those who know Christ. To those who are His slaves, His servants, His followers, and to His prophets, those who are proclaiming these truths, this is good news.

**Explanation/Application:** Of course, we know the word "good news" means the gospel. It is the message that God gives us that we love and embrace, and so the end of the world as we know it is not bad news for the Christian. The believers often get anxious about what is going on in our world, and certainly there are things we must deal with. We live on a planet that is infested with sin, and we must deal with those things and sometimes that causes us to struggle. We know that. When we know the end game, however, when we know the mystery of God, here in this regard, on how the world ends, that takes a lot of the sting out of those things. We know that whatever might happen now, ultimately, we have the revelation, the mystery of God, that reveals to us how all things will come together. It is going to be glorious. It is going to be good news! We are going to rejoice, not only in what we read, but in what we experience in the days and the eternity to come. That is good news, and it is a mystery that God has revealed to His people in His Word. We need to embrace it, trust it, and love it.

I hope that is true for you today as we finish out this broadcast this week in speaking about the mysteries of God. I hope this has given you a wonderful day and week in Christ as we have looked at these things together. We will look at a few more mysteries next time as we start to wrap up this series of the mysteries of God's Word.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 14, 2022**

We had been spending the last couple of weeks talking about the mysteries that are found in Scripture. Remember a mystery is basically a secret. Something that we would never know had God not revealed it to us. The mysteries that we find in the New Testament are exactly those. These are things hidden in the past that were unknowable to humans, or even to believers, prior to the revelation given to us in various places of the New Testament. There are at least thirteen mysteries, distinct mysteries, mentioned in the New Testament and we are working our way through those. We are going to look at three more of those mysteries this week and then a final one next week. I hope you will hang in there with us.

These mysteries tell us something about the issues of life. Things that you and I, and all of humanity, have questions about. The one we are looking at for the next two or three days will be the mystery that deals with our resurrection, and our body, and what we will be like after this life is over. Even those that do not know Christ, and even those that pretend to be atheists, sometimes have some kind of idea that there has got to be something more after this life.

**Question:** And the question is: What will that be like? What will we be like later?

**Answer:** The picture of that, although it is talked about a little bit in the Old Testament, is pretty much fleshed out in the New Testament. We are going to start with 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, and we will see this mystery. It says, "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality." So, he speaks here of the mystery concerning what happens to us after we have passed away, or after Christ comes back. What will we be like at that time? I am going to go to Daniel 12 where we have what is probably the most comprehensive teaching in the Old Testament concerning the resurrection from the dead. Contrary to what we might think, this subject is not brought up very often in the Old Testament. Maybe two other passages distinctly deal with this, Psalm 16, and then one time in the book of Job.

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Beyond that, there is not a lot said about resurrecting from the dead or life after death, or the future in that way. But Daniel 12 gives us some information. Here is what people knew prior to the New Testament. Daniel 12:1-2 says, "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at the time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt." So, the Old Testament taught, and the Jews knew this, that there would be a future for people after this life. That one day there would be a resurrection from the dead. They thought of it as a general resurrection that would have two components you might say. For the righteous, there would be everlasting life and we would be rescued. For the unrighteous, there would be everlasting contempt, what we would understand as eternal condemnation or judgment, for those who have rejected the Lord. So, that is what the Old Testament taught, and that is pretty much what the people knew up until the New Testament.

So, when we come to passages such as this one, we find that we are talking about a mystery because what is being revealed here was not revealed in the Old Testament to this extent. They did know there would be a resurrection. They did know that the believers, the righteous, would be rewarded and the unrighteous would be condemned. But they didn't know what we find here. That is where he is talking to the believers in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52—that we will all be changed. At that moment, at the last trumpet it says, the dead will rise imperishable, speaking of believers, and we will be changed.

**Explanation/Application:** So, we are going to have a new body, and "this perishable must put on the imperishable and this mortal must put on immortality". So, the mystery here is the body that we will have in eternity. We knew there would be a resurrection, but what would that resurrection be like? Now, we know that we will have a new and resurrected body, at that moment in time, when the Lord comes back for us.

Next time we are going to go a little further and take a gander at what that body looks like. What is it that we know about our body in eternity? So, you

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follow us tomorrow and we will pick that up. You have a wonderful day in the Lord.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 15, 2022**

We have been studying the mysteries that are found in the New Testament, the thirteen different mysteries that we can identify, the secrets that God has kept hidden from us in the past that have now been revealed to us in New Testament revelation. Yesterday, we began to talk about this mystery in the future, in which we are resurrected to a newness of life- eternal life. Our bodies will be changed, and we find that in 1 Corinthians 15.

What we want to do today is follow up on that same mystery. We are not going to introduce another mystery, but we want to get some more details about that. Which of us have not wondered what we will look like in heaven, and in our eternal state? Some people who are heavy want to think they will be skinny. Some people who are short think they will be tall. Some people that cannot sing, now, are hoping they are going to have this wonderful voice in heaven. We have imaginations like that and many others, but what do we really know about our eternal state? What will we be like?

The Bible doesn't come right out and say that we are going to look like this or that, but what it does tell us- in 1 Corinthians 15, in more detail than anyplace else in the New Testament – is that our eternal state, our bodies in eternity, will have a definite connection with our bodies here, now. They will not be total re-creations or new creations. There will be a connection with our bodies here in this life, but there will be a radical change of those bodies. What we'll exactly look like, what we will exactly do, if we will be able to have these gifts like singing or something else, we are not told those details.

Here is what we are told in 1 Corinthians 15:42, it says, "So also in the resurrection of the dead. It is sown," speaking of our body, "a perishable body." So, in this life our bodies perish. They get sick and they die, but that body is, "raised an imperishable body." So, there is a connection with our bodies now, but in the resurrection, we will have a body that will not die and will not get sick and will not perish. 1 Corinthians 15:43 says, "it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory." Now, I think the idea here is this – that we are all sinful. We are all born corrupt. We are all born in the process of dying, really. Yet, because of that sinfulness in ourselves, our sinful nature, we are sown in dishonor, but in the resurrected body, we are raised in glory. And

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glory speaks of that reflection of God Himself, and we will reflect the glory of God. The verse continues, "it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power." Sometimes, some folks anyway, think they're very powerful. They don't think they get sick. They don't think anything can hurt them. They are powerful people and so forth, and yet, the reality is that the most powerful, the healthiest, the strongest of any of us, can be felled by a disease or bacteria we can't even see. In reality, we are very fragile people, and we have a hard time accepting that, but that is what Scripture says and that is what experience says. So, we are sown in weakness, but we are going to be raised in power. So, the bodies that we will have for all of eternity will be powerful bodies. Truly, magnificently powerful compared to what we have now. Then, he isn't done, it says in 1 Corinthians 15:44, "it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." This could be a little confusing because we see throughout Scripture that our bodies are physical and in the resurrections our bodies will be physical, so we will have physical bodies forever. Then we come to this verse, and it says that we are raised a spiritual body. So, what is he getting at? Keeping in the context of 1 Corinthians and how Paul has used those same words earlier in the books, especially in chapters 2 and 3, we know he speaks of a natural body as one that is a body that is sinful. A body that is not regenerated. A body that is not properly aligned with God. It's a natural body, a natural person. A spiritual body, in the book of 1 Corinthians, speaks of one who is in right relationship with God Himself. So, we have been regenerated. So, this new body that we have – the body we have now – may be a body that is struggling and steeped in sin, its natural, but in the resurrection, we have a spiritual body in the sense that we are no longer tainted by sin and now we are reflecting the very glory of God.

So, we don't know what our bodies are going to look like, and we don't know many things about what we'll do and so forth, but we know this: we are going to have a body that will be reflective of all that God has done for us in the resurrection of the dead. That is a wonderful thought, isn't it- what God has planned for us?

Next time, we will take one more look at this particular mystery before we march on.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 16, 2022**

If you have been with us in our study of the mysteries of Christ, as found in the New Testament, you know that in the last two broadcasts we have been looking at the mystery that has to do with the mystery of what we will be like after the resurrection. We will be resurrected to a new life. We will be resurrected with new bodies. We will be changed and so forth, and we are looking at that. We saw this mystery in 1 Corinthians 15, and we saw something about what our bodies will look like in eternity.

I am going to look at one more aspect of this mystery and that is found in 1 Thessalonians 4 in what we often call, the Rapture. I know in some of our other broadcasts we have looked at the Rapture. The word "rapture" simply means to be caught up, and it is found here in this text. The Latin word for caught up means "rapture". That's where we get our term. It's the idea that we are going to be caught up to be with Christ. So, that is another aspect of this mystery of being changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 talks about it, it says, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus." So, those who have already passed away don't cease to exist. They are already with the Lord in their spiritual state right now, and when He returns, they will come back with Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:15, "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first." Now we are going back to this mystery of the resurrection. We saw in the book of Daniel that the Old Testament saints were promised a resurrection from the dead, but it was kind of a general resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15, we saw some more particulars about this mystery and the changing that will take place. Now we find here, in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, that the dead in Christ will rise first from the grave. So, this is the promise of the believer, the New Testament believer, the church, resurrecting from the grave at this particular point in time. It says,

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“the dead in Christ will rise first”. So, those that have already passed away will rise first. Then he says, in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” I think every Christian has hoped they would be part of that group that would be here on earth, alive to greet Christ when He calls us to be with Him. So far, no group has managed to do that. Maybe we will be that group and we will be the ones who will greet Him when He calls us up, but if not, and if we have already passed away, we know we will be resurrected – even before those that are on the earth. We will be called up to the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Part of this mystery is that we will leave this earth, but we will go to be with Him, and it says, “and so we shall always be with the Lord.” So, once we go to be with the Lord, we’re never coming back to be without Him. We will never depart from Him. We will come back to this earth one day to live in the Kingdom that He will establish, but He will be with us and His Tabernacle, the book of Revelation tells us, will be among men. That is where we will be with Him.

In this mystery of being changed at the resurrection, we put 1 Corinthians 15 with 1 Thessalonians 4, and we find that when we are resurrected, at that moment, we are given our new bodies; our new glorified, resurrected bodies. The souls of those that have already passed away and their new resurrected bodies are now going to be combined. Thus, we will always be with the Lord in that state. That is the mystery that he is talking about. A changed physical body that is not disconnected with the body we have now, but changed. It will be so much better. At the same time, we are connected, our spirit will be also in that body, and we will be ever with the Lord.

That’s why he says at the end here in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, “Therefore comfort one another with these words.” How much more comforting could it be than to know that one day the Lord is coming for us. He is going to resurrect us from the dead if we are passed. He is going to change us if we are still alive. He is going to take us to be with Him and we are going to be with Him forever. How much more comforting could it be?

That should not only give you a wonderful day in the Lord, but it should give you wonderful comfort in His great plans for the future. We hope you join us next time as we move to another mystery revealed in the New Testament.



# Glorious Mysteries

**March 17, 2022**

As we have examined the mysteries of Christ as found in the New Testament, we spent the last three days examining the mystery surrounding our resurrection. That when the Lord comes back for us, He changes us, He takes us to be with Him, and gives us a new and resurrected and glorified body and we will be in that body with the Lord forever. Those are wonderful truths.

We are going to back up now and look at another mystery that precedes that time. This is a mystery that has to do with our salvation. In Colossians 1:26 Paul talks about this, and remember that each of the mysteries is resolving a problem or question that humanity asks. Even that Christians ask.

**Question:** The question is: What happens to us at the moment of conversion? When we are saved, what happens?

**Answer:** We could answer that in a lot of different ways. At the moment of conversion, we are made the children of God. At the moment of conversion, we are adopted into the family of God. At the moment of conversion, we are forgiven of our sins and given the righteousness of Christ. At the moment of conversion, we are justified. At the moment of conversion, we now have all of these things, and we are now prepared for eternal life. We could march on to a lot of other things that happen at that moment. That is the great turning point of all of our lives, isn't it?

Now we are looking at another portion of that and it is called *the mystery of Christ dwelling in us*. I want to look at that with you in Colossians 1:26, it says, "that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generation, but has now been manifested to His saints." So, this is a secret, a mystery of God, that people in the past did not have a handle on and did not understand. It has, now, been revealed to us. He continues, "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."

I think there is kind of an overlapping mystery here. Part of this mystery is that Christ is in us. So, at the moment of conversion, Christ, in a way that

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we don't totally grasp, lives in us. He comes in us. We go into Him. We are in Christ. We are united with Christ, but Christ also indwells us, and that is part of the mystery here that he talks about which is Christ in you. That is glorious, isn't it? It's hard to fathom what it means to us that Christ actually lives in us. That's why it is the hope of our glory.

There is another aspect of this mystery that Paul is talking about and that is in this word "Gentiles". Remember Paul called himself the apostle to the Gentiles. In the New Testament era, the Jewish people really didn't particularly desire that the Gentiles know God, or follow God. They saw Gentiles as their enemies. One of the themes of the New Testament in the epistles is showing the importance of the Gentiles being included in the body of Christ. Positionally, as well as in the practice within the churches. So, Paul is saying here that one of the mysteries is that Gentiles are now in the family of God. That Christ now, not only indwells the Jewish people who He has chosen in the Old Testament, but He also indwells the Gentiles who come to Him. That is a mystery. It is not something that Jews desired or really understood. Although, we can go back to the Old Testament and we can see inklings, and hints, and even some statements that the Gentiles would follow the Lord, but now it is fully developed and fully revealed to us that He is in us as Gentiles. Most of us who are listening to this right now are probably Gentiles.

**Explanation/Application:** Paul continues in Colossians 1:28 saying, "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Paul says that this is the message he has – proclaiming Jesus Christ to Jews and Gentiles. He also says in Colossians 1:29, "For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me." Paul is saying he is glorying in the power that God gives him to be what he wants him to be and to proclaim what He is to the world and this great mystery that Christ can indwell us, who are human, beings who have been regenerated by His power, and that He also has brought the Gentiles into the family of God. Jews and Gentiles alike are indwelt by God, and we are part of His family- part of His church. That is a great and wonderful mystery. We will look at one more mystery next time before we close out this week. I hope you can join us.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 18, 2022**

We're looking at another mystery today. We've been looking at these for about three weeks now. These are mysteries of Christ found in the New Testament. We have looked at two so far this week, and we are looking at one more before we conclude these mysteries next week.

Today, I want to look at Romans 16 with you looking at *the mystery of salvation*.

**Question:** Who needs to be saved? Who needs the salvation offered by Jesus Christ?

**Answer:** The short answer: every living human being! It's too late for those who have already passed, but every living person has the opportunity to understand and receive the mystery of salvation.

In Romans 16:25-26 he talks about this mystery. Romans is the full systematic theology, in some sense, especially as dealing with our salvation. Before we look at these closing verses of Romans, arguably the greatest book of the New Testament, I'd like to give you a quick five-part outline of the book of Romans that is very handy to remember:

- Part I Romans 1-3 – Sin – all about sin and our need for a Savior.
- Part II Romans 5-6 – Salvation – tells us how we can be saved and talks about our salvation.
- Part III Romans 6-8 – Sanctification – talks about our sanctification and how we can understand our life in Christ now and grow in Him as He wants us to grow.
- Part IV Romans 9-11 – Sovereignty – about the sovereignty of God and God choosing, first of all, the people of Israel, and how it is that God has not given up on Israel, and sovereignly He is in charge of all of these things.
- Part V Romans 12-16 – Service – about service and how we can apply all that has been taught in the first eleven chapters.

If you remember those five "S's," you will have a handle on the book of Romans: Sin, Salvation, Sanctification, Sovereignty, and Service.

## Glorious Mysteries

Now he comes to the end of his epistle, and he says in Romans 16:25-27, "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." So, here's a revelation of a mystery, the mystery of salvation. He continues, "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; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever, Amen." So, he proclaims the Lord for his salvation. This whole book has been about salvation of God's people. How He takes us from being sinners to saints and develops us along the way. This book has been about that subject all the way through, and now he is talking here about this "mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past." It is kind of like what we talked about last time. Not only is this a mystery in which sinners become saints, and how God works in us to do that, but it also is the promise of the salvation that goes to the Gentiles. That seems to be a very big deal in the epistles. The Gentiles simply were not accepted by the Jews. Why would God want to reach out to Gentiles? Why would God want to save Gentiles? I mean, they are not the chosen people of the Old Testament. They were not Israel, so why did God bother to reach out? That seemed to be a real complexing thing for the Jewish people, so a lot of the revelation in the epistles deal with that particular concern. So, Paul ends Romans with that.

What Paul had done with Romans 1-3, where he talked about our need for salvation, was to point out, especially in Romans 2, that not only do the Gentiles need to be saved, but so do the Jews. So, there is equal footing here. Jews and Gentiles both need the saving grace of God. Left to ourselves, both Gentiles and Jews are lost in their sins. They have no hope, they are condemned, they are under the judgment of God, and they will be condemned forever in hell because of the judgment of God upon their sins. So, Paul, early in the book of Romans, points out the fact that Jews are under the same spiritual condition as the Gentiles, and that they too need God's saving grace found in Jesus Christ.

**Explanation/Application:** Now he ends the book by pointing that out once again. He is saying that this message of salvation, this mystery, is so powerful and so broad that it goes, not just to a particular group of ethnic people, but to all those who will come to Jesus Christ by faith alone. So, this

## Glorious Mysteries

is the theme that comes up over and over in the book of Romans and Galatians and other places as well. We are so glad it is here, and we are so glad that we can know this mystery is true. That the Lord will save any of us, Jew or Gentile, who will recognize their sinful condition, turn to the Lord by faith alone, and receive His wonderful gift of eternal life. That is a mystery. It is a mystery, not only because it was revealed in the New Testament for us to understand, but it is a mystery as to why God would even bother to save people like you and I, but what a joy that brings us and what a wonderful day in the Lord it should bring us as well.

Next week we will spend the entire week looking at one more mystery. The mysteries of the kingdom as found primarily in Matthew 13. I hope you can join us.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 21, 2022**

This week we are going to examine, for one more week, the mysteries of Christ as found in the New Testament. So, we have spent a few weeks on that, looking at these great mysteries, keeping in mind that a mystery is something that was hidden in the past, some kind of secret of God's, that He has now chosen to reveal to us in His Scriptures. Of course, He revealed those, first, through His apostles-most of them through the apostle Paul, but not all of them. These mysteries are things that really help us understand something about life and the questions that people are asking, and we are asking. This week we are going to finish up by looking at one mystery, *the mystery of the kingdom*, found mostly in Matthew 13. We are going to unpack that for the next five days-looking at different aspects of that.

**Question:** What does this mystery reveal to us about the secrets of God? What is it the Lord is going to show us? What mystery is there? What do we need to know to function as Christians in the world we live in today?

**Answer:** Matthew 13:11 says, "Jesus answered them, 'To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.'" This was in response to the question by the disciples as to why it is that Jesus was explaining these parables to them. He had given the parable and the people did not understand it, and now He is going to explain it to the disciples. That was His response to them. He says He wants them to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. So, that is our subject this week. The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

That implies that there are some things that we did not know – that apparently no one knew, prior to Jesus opening this up to His disciples and now to us in the New Testament gospel.

**Explanation/Application:** Let's get a little bit of background here. In the Old Testament, there was much revelation about the day when it would come that the Messiah, the King of the Jews, would come. When He came to earth and He came to His people, the Jews, He would set up a kingdom on earth. He would be their king and in conjunction with that, would be the restoration of many things. In most of those chapters in the Old Testament, mostly in the prophetic books, we find Israel being brought back to the land.

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They are now restored. They are prosperous. Their crops are doing well. The king, the Messiah, sits on the throne of David. He rules in righteousness and justice. Many other things take place, as well. There seems to be a reversal of many of the curses that have been placed on the earth. Not a complete removal, but we now find that the lion and the lamb lay down together, we find people living into advanced ages, and numerous other things along that line. That was a promise given to the people of Israel, and we find that repeatedly throughout the Old Testament. The major condition for that kingdom coming into existence was of course, the King coming, but also on the part of the people of Israel, was repentance. So, that was the message that was repeated, either with that word, or with that concept. Probably, literally, hundreds of times in the prophetic books.

If the King is to come, and he is to set up His kingdom on earth in which all of these promises are fulfilled, then Israel's responsibility was to repent of their sin and their rebelliousness. Their defiance against God. That was the message that the Old Testament finished with in the book of Malachi. Then we come to the gospels. As the gospel began to unfold, of course, we have the incarnation and so forth, but when Jesus' public ministry began, you will remember what the first message was that was going on at that time. We start with John the Baptist. Just before Jesus steps into the limelight, there is John the Baptist. His message was the exact same message that the prophets of the Old Testament preached. He said in Matthew 3:2, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." That was the message of John the Baptist. When Jesus steps up to the limelight following His baptism and so forth, He repeated the exact same message to the people in Matthew 4:17, "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

So, the Lord was promising a kingdom that was coming. This is what the people looked forward to and now here was John the Baptist and Jesus saying that the kingdom was at hand, repent, so that the kingdom can be put into place. Here is the problem of course: the people did not repent as a nation. There were individuals, but the leadership did not repent and most of the people did not repent. The ultimate evidence of that is the crucifixion of the King. That causes a problem. The kingdom has been offered, it is at hand, but they have rejected the King and the kingdom.

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What's next? That is the mystery of the kingdom of heaven that we will talk about in Matthew 13. Join us next time, and we will start to look at what some of those are.



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**March 22, 2022**

Last time we began the study of *the mystery of the kingdom of heaven* that Jesus said, in Matthew 13:11, He was going to explain to His disciples, and to us by the extension of the New Testament Scriptures. So, we go to Matthew 13. What are we talking about? If the kingdom of heaven has been postponed, so to speak, until the time that the Jews and the nation of Israel repents, and are ready to receive their King, which we find out in other revelation of Scriptures will take place at the second coming of Christ, we know that is going to happen, in the meanwhile, what do we have here? The kingdom was offered. It was rejected. It has been postponed. It has not been removed, it will come as promised, but not yet. It could have come at the coming of Jesus, but it did not. So, what is going on?

Jesus begins a series of parables. Seven different parables, in Matthew 13, that talk about life as it is now, and in this particular time which we now call the Church Age. Some people have called what Jesus is talking about here, Christendom, because it is not the church that He is talking about. The mystery of the kingdom is not the church, but it is something that the church is part of, and there is a mixture of that.

The first parable is the parable of the sower. That is the best known of the parables. In Matthew 13:2-9 it says, "And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, 'Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'" So, we begin with this parable in which Jesus is talking about the seed of the gospel. The seed of the kingdom, actually, was the message that was being given, as going out to recipients. Jesus now identifies those recipients as four different kinds of soil, and we see those, four different kind of soils, there that He mentions. So, rightly, the original audience heard this sermon and went away a bit perplexed. Who

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is he talking about, what do these soils mean, and how do they relate to us? They really didn't know. So, that is why the apostles would come and say to Jesus, explain to us these things, and Jesus begins to do that later on in the chapter.

We come to Matthew 13:19, for example, and we see that our Lord is talking about what these soils mean. He begins with the first soil saying, "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road." Remember we have the sower out there. We don't have the perfect system like we have today, with tractors planting the seeds in these perfect rows. We have people going out scattering seed like you and I might do when we are putting seed in our yard for grass. He said, some of those went on the road. These were paths where people walked. The ground was hard and therefore, the seed did not take root. So, we have an unresponsive heart here. Some people hear the Word, they hear the truth, and they are unresponsive. Their hearts are hardened.

There is a second kind of soil, as Matthew 13:20-21 says, "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away." Now we have an impulsive heart. Here is someone who has heard the Word of truth and they immediately respond to it, even with joy, but it says here that he has no root. It is temporary and when difficult times come, or persecution, he immediately falls away. Our picture, then, is an impulsive person. You have seen people like this. Maybe you were like this at one time. The first time you heard the gospel, or it was explained in a way that was really enthusiastic to you, you might have responded, or some do respond, and they seem for all the world, to be a Christians. They are excited about the things of God, and then they die away in a very short period of time, and they are gone forever. We say, what happened to those people? The passage seems to indicate that they were impulsively receiving that message, but they had no root. It didn't really penetrate into their hearts. Therefore, we have a group of people who did not know the true gospel. They responded to something superficial, but that is as far as they got.

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We will look at the other two soils next time. I hope you will join us.

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**March 23, 2022**

Last time, in our series of our mysteries on the kingdom, we saw that the Lord would spread His word, His gospel, His good news among people. He likened those people to soils. Some soils, He talked about four different types of soils, some soils, in Matthew 13:19 for example, were unresponsive. They heard the gospel and it just bounced off them. They had no response in a positive way at all. The second group, in Matthew 13:20, seems to have, for just a moment, received the gospel very well and very quickly. They impulsively receive it, even with joy. They might get involved with the church for a short time or whatever, then their enthusiasm dries up and they are gone because Matthew 13:21 says they have no roots.

Let's go on to the other two kinds of soil today. We have a distracted soil in Matthew 13:22, which says, "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. Here is a person that seems to have gone a little further with things, but it would appear they still did not receive the good news, the real message. Because although they heard it at first, the worries of this world, it says, the deceitfulness of wealth, and other things begin to choke out the Word. It becomes something they no longer respond to. They are distracted by the world. They are distracted by wealth. They are distracted by worry. They are distracted by various struggles, and it simply doesn't go anywhere in their lives. So, although they have all the appearance, at first, of people who are following Christ, apparently, they do not.

There is a fourth kind of soil though. We are sure glad Jesus kept talking, because we now have in Matthew 13:23 this fruitful soil. He says, "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty." We have a final soil. Notice there is nothing wrong with the message. The Word that goes out is the same message. There is nothing wrong with the messenger. This could be, in this case, the messenger could be Christ Himself as it is in the next parable, or it could be those that spread the good news of Christ's Word and Christ's gospel. Either way, what we have here is that there is nothing particularly wrong

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with the messenger, especially if it is Christ, and there is nothing wrong with the message. The issue is the place of the soils. The receptivity of the soils.

In the case of the first three soils, there was not a true receptivity. They heard it, they had different levels of response to it, but as far as we can tell, they did not truly embrace it, but this final one does and we are so happy to see this. This is good soil. This is the soil prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive the message of God's Word, and they understand it. We know from other Scriptures such as 1 Corinthians 2 and 2 Corinthians 4 that we are blind to the truth of God until the Spirit does a work in our lives so that we understand His truth. So, we find that these people, who are the good soil, they have an understanding mind. God has opened their eyes spiritually to the truth. As a result of that, they begin to live out the gospel in their lives and they bear fruit, and it speaks of different levels of bearing fruit. Some "a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty". All people do not produce the same degree of fruitfulness according to this parable, but what they do is they produce fruit.

The picture in Scripture is this: all true followers of Christ, because of His work in us, do produce some form of fruit. Sometimes that fruit is hard to detect. Other times it is abundant and obvious, but there should be a response in our lives, a change in our lives, that produces that kind of fruit. We think of James 2:14, where it says, "What use it is, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." James is not talking about a social gospel or a social agenda here. He is saying that if you are going to actually help somebody, you need to actually help somebody and not just talk about it. If our faith is genuine we don't just talk about it. It produces in our life the evidence of the fruit of the spirit in our lives. That's the good soil and they have received the message and they are now producing the good fruit based upon the receiving of that message in their hearts.

I hope you are part of that good soil, and that you have received Christ as your Savior by faith alone. If not, please call us. We would like to talk to you about that.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 24, 2022**

We are happy that you have joined us once again. We are looking at the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven found in Matthew 13. We have looked at what is probably the best known of the parables. There are seven of them there, but we have looked at the best known, *Parable of the Sower*. We are going to look at the second best known and the second largest, *The Parable of the Wheat and Tares*, in Matthew 13:20.

This is a very different picture that Jesus gives at this particular time. He is going to give another parable here and He starts with Matthew 13:24-30, "Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' But, he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'" This is a pretty well-known parable, but Jesus begins to explain the meaning in Matthew 13:37, and this is probably not what they were expecting because it is a little different than the one He had just given them. It has a different thrust.

In Matthew 13:36, we see His disciples and it says, "Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He says this in Matthew 13:37, "And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man," so this is different than the parable of the sower because the one sowing the seed is Christ Himself. While the first parable of the sower could have been Jesus, it could also have been anybody that is sowing the good news of the gospel. In this case here, this is Jesus Himself. This in particular is concerning the mystery of the kingdom that the people of Israel have rejected. So, He says, that the Son of Man is the sower, in Matthew 13:37. Secondly, in Matthew 13:38, it tells us that the field is the world, "and the field is the world." So,

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it is talking about, apparently, the whole world. Not just the Jewish people, although that would be primary, but also all Gentiles. The whole world the seed can be sowed. Then He moves on to talk about the seed itself and He says, "and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one." So now, we are not talking about the seed being the gospel or the truths, or the message of the kingdom, we are talking about people themselves. He says here that these are the sons of the kingdom.

So, the seeds that are being sown here are people who are part of the kingdom. These are the followers of Christ. Those that have accepted the good news. They are the ones that bore the good fruit back in the last parable, but there is another group of people that He talks of here and He says, "the tares are the sons of the evil one." Tares were a sort of a weed, kind of a darnel, and they were a fungus. When they were planted in the fields, they looked, as they grew up, almost identical, at first, to the wheat, but they were not wheat, and they were poisonous to eat. Therefore, when the harvest took place, you had to get rid of the tares, or the darnel, so that you didn't bundle it in with the wheat because it would be poisonous to any who would want to eat it. So, it was a very serious situation for people that are working by hand. So, these tares are the sons of the evil one. So, what has been planted here are false followers of the Lord. These would be people who would claim to be Christians, followers of Christ, but they are not. They're sons of the evil one who are pretending to be believers, or appear to be believers, and they are sown into the same field as true believers. Of course, that brings about a great deal of conflict, doesn't it? So here is our problem. What are we going to do with this situation? We have true believers, side-by-side with unbelievers in the same church, same congregation. What are we going to do with that? What should be done and how should it be handled?

We will look at that next time as we finish off this subject of the kingdom.

# Glorious Mysteries

**March 25, 2022**

We will finish up today, both our series in the mysteries of Christ found in the New Testament, thirteen different mysteries, or secrets, unveiled to us through the Scriptures, and finish our series of the mysteries of the kingdom.

We have spent all week looking at Matthew 13 and the mysteries of the kingdom. As we do that today, we are looking at *The Parable of the Tares and the Wheat*, and we left off last time at Matthew 13:38 where we see that the seed that has been sown, in this particular parable, is the seed of the followers of Christ, the good seed, the sons of the kingdom. Then we see the sons of the evil one, the sons of the devil, false followers of the Lord being sown in the same field, same congregation, same group of people.

He continues in Matthew 13:39, "and the enemy who sowed them is the devil." So, now we are looking at what is going on. We see the workers are the sons of the devil. These people are out there spreading a false message about the kingdom, Christ, Christianity, and the gospel. They have appearances of being the true followers of Christ and they are not. They are the sons of the evil one. We find that's only to be expected because we find that the sower is the devil. So, Satan is counterfeiting everything that Jesus does. So, Jesus is putting out into the world His people, His followers, the sons of obedience, the sons of the kingdom, and Satan is putting out false followers of Christ who are actually followers of himself. We see that in Matthew 13:39.

Then the verse continues, "and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels." So now He jumps to the future. What are we to do with these particular people who claim to be part of God's kingdom, claim to be followers of Christ, but are not. It says here in Matthew 13:40, "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age." He now moves to the time of the coming of Christ, the Second Coming, "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." He is talking about what happens at the resurrection of the dead when Christ comes back. Daniel 12 spoke about this very thing back in the Old Testament. When the Son comes back, when Christ comes



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back at the Second Coming, He sends angels forth to gather out of the harvest, all those who are false. All those who truly do not know Christ and who are pretenders. He gathers them out of the kingdom, and He sends them into the fiery furnace-that place of weeping and gnashing of teeth-so the lake of fire. Often what we would call hell, but essentially, the lake of fire. We know that He is talking about the Second Coming and not the Rapture here. At the Rapture of the church, the Lord comes back in the sky and takes His people to be with Him out of the earth leaving behind unbelievers. At the Second Coming, seven years later, Christ comes back, and He doesn't take the believers out. He takes the unbelievers out and He casts them into the lake of fire leaving behind only the followers of Christ, the sons of the kingdom. Then the earth at that point is populated only with the people of God, those who follow Christ. That is what He talks about in Matthew 13:43, "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear." Here is the good news for the followers of Christ. The righteous here are the true sons of the kingdom, truly followers of the Lord. These are individuals who will be alive when Christ comes back at the end of the Tribulation Period as described in Revelation 19. At that point, having gathered out all the unbelievers from the earth and having sent them off to judgment, He leaves behind only the followers of Himself. They will be the ones that enter the Millennial Kingdom with Christ as He sets it up on earth, and finally His kingdom is on earth as had been promised throughout the Old Testament. Israel will be restored to their land. Great blessings will be theirs physically and spiritually. Christ will be on the throne of David over Israel in Jerusalem and for a thousand years He will reign there.

So, Jesus, in this parable, even before He was crucified, explains what will happen at the end times when He sets up His kingdom on earth. He has promised a kingdom. That kingdom will come. The form that it's taking right now, the Christendom that we call it, the life that we live now, was not what was expected. It was something hidden in the past but has been revealed to us now in the Scriptures.

We hope you have enjoyed this series. We hope it has drawn you closer to Christ as we have seen the mysteries that He has revealed to us. God's blessings upon you.

# Glorious Mysteries

## The Mysteries of God

*The Mystery of His Will* – Ephesians 1:9-10 – All things are going to come under the power and leadership of Jesus Christ. God is sovereign and rules over all things. Nothing happens that He does not ordain or allow to happen. He masters now, He is the Lord over all things, but one day He sums up all things in Christ.

*The Mystery of Lawlessness* – 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 – The mystery of lawlessness is at work. It permeates everything in our world. Everything in our society and even within our own hearts, even as Christians. The mystery of lawlessness exists, it will ultimately culminate in the man of lawlessness, but the Lord will slay him. He will destroy him, and He will set up His throne of righteousness.

*The Mystery of Godliness* – 1 Timothy 3:16, Colossians 2:2, Ephesians 6:19 – The mystery of godliness answers the question of why evilness exists in society despite all the efforts of man. Sin is in our hearts and therefore cannot be eradicated by man. The gospel is the means by which God solves the issues of sin in our lives. It is the only means by which you and I can be right before a holy God.

*The Mystery of the Church* – Ephesians 3:2-4, 5:32 – So, the mystery of the church, the mystery of Christ, is that the Lord has chosen to bring together under one body, His church. No Christian should ever look down on anyone else that is not like them. In Christ we are all one. In Christ we are all equal. Therefore, the issue of this type of racism is removed, and there is one body. This one body coming together in love under the headship of Jesus Christ Himself as a bride adorned by her husband is a great mystery.

*The Mystery of God's Wisdom* – I Corinthians 1:20-24, I Corinthians 2:6-16

- In God's wisdom, the entry point of life is salvation found only in Jesus Christ.
- In God's wisdom, once we are in Him and we have been regenerated, we need direction in how to live that life. That is found in the revelation of the Word of God that He has given us through the inspired apostles.
- In God's wisdom, we now have the capacity to think like Christ, to process like Christ, and to understand life like Christ wants us to

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understand it as we absorb the teaching of God's Word that renews our mind and our thinking.

*The Mystery of the Partial Hardening of Israel* – Romans 9-11 – God gave Israel a calling and a gift, and He said they are His people and no matter what it looks like right now, God will never revoke that which He had given them. He has a plan for them and ultimately, they will be brought back, and they will be saved as a nation.

*The Mystery of God* – Revelation 10:7 – God will bring things to a closure in His time. When He does that, we know He will destroy all systems, nations, and peoples who resist Him and come against Him. Then He will set up His kingdom on the earth and ultimately, that will lead to the eternal state, the eternal kingdom, in which we will be with Him forever.

*The Mystery of Our Resurrection and Eternal Body* – 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Daniel 12:1-2, I Corinthians 15:42-44

- We know that we will have a new and resurrected body, at the moment in time, when the Lord comes back for us.
- We are going to have a body that will be reflective of all that God has done for us in the resurrection of the dead.
- He is going to resurrect us from the dead if we are passed. He is going to change us if we are still alive. He is going to take us to be with Him and we are going to be with Him forever.

*The Mystery of Christ dwelling in us* – Colossians 1:26-29 – Paul is saying he is glorying in the power that God gives him to be what he wants him to be and to proclaim what He is to the world and this great mystery that Christ can indwell us, who are human beings, who have been regenerated by His power, and that He also has brought the Gentiles into the family of God. Jews and Gentiles alike are indwelt by God, and we are part of His family – part of His church.

*The Mystery of Salvation* – Romans 16:25-27 – The Lord will save any of us, Jew or Gentile, who will recognize their sinful condition, turn to the Lord by faith alone, and receive His wonderful gift of eternal life.

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*The Mystery of the Kingdom of heaven* – Matthew 13 – He has promised a kingdom. That kingdom will come.