

## The Mystery Concealed Now Revealed

Rom 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 kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith — 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Paul in this benediction and doxology has commended the saints at Rome to Him who is able to establish them according to his gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. As we noted last Sunday the gospel is the very subject matter of this letter to the church at Rome. As we have previously noted the outline of Romans is quite clear. The first 3 chapters deal with the sinfulness of mankind. Chapters 4 through 11 deal with the redemption provided by God for His elect. Chapters 12-15 deal with how we are to respond with thankfulness exhibited by obedience in godly living. Now he says that all this is according to the mystery made known to all nations.

What is the mystery? Why was it a mystery if it had been revealed? How is this mystery of the revelation now understood?

A. What is this mystery of which Paul now speaks?

1. Regarding redemption and salvation in Jesus Christ.

- a. The word "mystery" means "something hidden or concealed".
- b. That the Messiah, the promised King would be "God manifest in the flesh" was not fully understood though clearly revealed by the Old Testament prophets.

*1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.*

- c. It is quite clear that the disciples did not understand who Jesus was or why He had come.
- d. Even the disciples of Christ themselves.

(1) Consider Peter's rebuke of our Lord. (Matt. 16:21-22)

*Matt 16:21-22 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"*

- (2) What manner of man is this that even the wind and the waves obey Him?
- (3) Disciples on the road to Emmaus. (see Luke 24:13-27)

2. The fact that the Church would be the continuation of the national Israel and includes both Jews and Gentiles. - *and by the prophetic Scriptures **made known to all nations**, according to the commandment of the everlasting God*

*Eph 2:12-13 that at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*Eph 2:19-21 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, **but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*

- a. Was not understood and required the first General Synod of the church in Jerusalem.
- b. Note the church has not replaced Israel but is the continuation of the promised family of Abraham.
- c. Clearly revealed to Paul who became the Apostle to the Gentiles.

*Col 1:24-26 **Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church**, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God **which was given to me for you**, to fulfill the word of God, **the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.***

B. Why was it a mystery if it had been revealed? - according to the revelation of the mystery **kept secret since the world began**

1. The revelation of the person and work of Christ was a **revealed hidden truth**.

- a. Hidden in types and shadows.
- b. Revealed by the prophets often in a manner that needed additional information. - according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

2. Even the Old Testament Prophets did not understand what they had received.

*1 Peter 1:10-12* 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of **the grace that would come to you**, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating **when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow**. 12 **To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering** the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — **things which angels desire to look into**.

3. The New Testament reveals what the Old Testament concealed.

*1 Cor 2:7-8* But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

*1 Cor 2:10* But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

*1 Cor 2:12* Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we **might know the things that have been freely given to us by God**.

4. The knowledge of who Christ is and why He came is not given to all men. (Dt 29:29)

*Matt 13:11* He answered and said to them, "**Because it has been given to you to know** the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, **but to them it has not been given**."

5. If you are trusting in Christ, do not place any credit in yourself.

- a. You too were dead in trespasses and sin. Eph 2:1
- b. It is by the grace of God alone that we are able to see. 2 Cor. 4:3-6

*2 Cor 4:3-5* But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **whose minds the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, **lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them**. For **it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness**, who **has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge** of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- c. Your faith is a gift from God. Eph 2:8.9
- d. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God. Rom. 10:17
- e. Your understanding of the Word is a gracious awakening in you by the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION: Paul here commends the believers to:

That One who is able to establish them in their faith.

That One who was concealed in the Old Testament types, shadows and prophecies, but is now fully revealed in the New Testament Scriptures to be the Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

And since this letter comes down to us here this morning, this glorious benediction includes you here this morning that are trusting in the promised Messiah as your Lord and Redeemer.