

CHRIST UNTOLD

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

"...the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began"

~ Romans 16:25

1. The Importance of the Mystery of Christ

- a. Greatest division to be made in the Bible is between Prophecy and Mystery of Christ
- b. All the Bible speaks of Christ – mostly Christ according to Prophecy
- c. Not a hidden Bible code, not Eastern Orthodox, not "mysterious ways", not still secret
- d. A mystery is a secret – if it was kept secret "since the world began" – Rom 16:25
- e. There are things searchable, and things unsearchable – John 5:39 and Eph 3:8
- f. The mystery of Christ was secret, but now is revealed - Ephesians 3:1-9, Col 1:25-26

2. Prophecy Review

- a. Before acknowledging the mystery revealed, we must review truth of prophecy
- b. Prophecy of Christ tells us *who* He is; the gospel of his name; his identity as Christ
- c. Prophecy does not speak of our church, our gospel, our blessing, our Head
- d. Prophecy speaks of God's people, glory, blessing through Israel's law and covenants
- e. Prophecy spoke of the Christ of Israel who brings salvation to the world – Luk 1:68-75
- f. Prophetic fulfillment was happening in MMLJ and in Peter's ministry – Acts 3:21-24
- g. The Christ of prophecy sent Paul with the mystery – Romans 1:1-5, 11:13

3. Mystery Revealed

- a. The mystery of Christ tells us who *we* are; the gospel of grace; our identity in Christ
- b. Our gospel was hid → Acts 20:24, Eph 6:19; 1 Cor 15:1-4; 2 Cor 4:3-4
- c. But now → without the Israel, w/o the law, w/o covenants – Rom 3:21, 7:6, Eph 2:13
- d. The people of God is now one Body of Christ = Eph 2:15; 3:6; 2 Cor 5:17
 - i. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, but a new creature – Gal 6:15, Col 3:11
- e. The glory of God is now Christ in you = Col 1:27-28; Col 2:6; Gal 3:2-3; Gal 4:9-10;
 - i. We have the spirit/mind of Christ – Rom 8:9, 8:14; Gal 5:18,25; 1 Co 2:16,3:16
 - ii. Life, wisdom, righteousness, peace, joy, mind, walk – all of grace, all of Christ
- f. The spiritual blessings of God are now all yours freely = Eph 1:13; Phil 4:19
 - i. We are now complete in Christ – Col 2:10

4. Why It Matters

- a. God in his wisdom kept it hidden to accomplish his purpose - 1 Corinthians 2:1-7
- b. Rightly dividing the mystery of Christ from prophecy makes both clear.
- c. All scripture speaks of Christ – if we don't rightly divide, Christ is hidden and confused
- d. The prophecy of Christ is essential for getting the Bible and Christ's identity right.
- e. The mystery of Christ is essential for getting the gospel and your identity right.
- f. Failing to preach the mystery of Christ today casts doubt upon the prophecy of Christ