

## “ Secrets” (Mystery)

If I was in front of you and wrote on a flip chart, but with my finger and not with a marker or pen, and then I Ask: “what did I write? Well, none of you could see what I wrote. And not many reads Greek? Then if I wrote it in English but still no pen so no visible words but wrote again on the flip chart. Then I asked: Any one know what I just wrote? What’s the matter no one reads English either? Is that fair for me to expect you to read words that are not there? What was the letter I started with? Any guesses? Ok I’ll confess. I really don’t want everyone to see what I wrote; only a chosen few. The ones paying attention. In a conference setting it might be the ones in the front row! They seem more interested in the word than those of you who chose to sit close to the food in the back! It is obvious to me that they are interested in Spiritual things while the rest are interested in worldly things and filling their bellies. Is that a fair statement? Does it sound fair? Well it is not. But it is not about “Fair” it is about God’s sovereignty. God told me to only tell some of you because it’s a secret that hasn’t been revealed before to mankind or any other created being.. Yes that is the word I wrote: “secret”. Actually I wrote the Greek word “Musterion” first. Why all the secrecy? Because, that is what the Greek word “Musterion” means. We also translate it “mystery”. Why the introduction in this manner? Because most of you who know the “Mystery” are in fact keeping it a secret! Here we are meeting in a Chat room. In Russia we would be considered a secret society, because so few know of this mystery and fewer understand it.

Therefore, my purpose today, in the short time I have, is to tie together my previous studies on “Hearing, Seeing and Understanding” and provide a quick summary of some of the key points of the mystery in hopes that you will be better prepared to discuss it with someone else who may ask a question. Then again, you may decide to be like the Apostle Paul who wrote: “ *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak (Eph 6:19, 29).* Earlier he tells the Ephesians’:

*“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ”, Eph 3:9.*

So, this Mystery or secret was ***hid!*** No wonder not everyone sees it! So how can we get their interest to seek it out? Well you might start by asking: ***“How many of you read the Bible?”*** How many of you know how to read the Bible? How many know that God keeps ‘Secrets’?

So, since you know how to read the Bible, and do read it, then let’s test you. Do you know that the Bible says: ***“there is no God!”*** Don’t believe me? Check it out. Turn to Psalms.

*(Psa 53:1 KJV) To the chief Musician upon Mahalath, Maschil, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.*

OK, now do you see that just reading does not mean running your eyes over the verses? But instead, means understanding how the words are put together which means understanding the context. That means understanding what is being told to whom, at what time, and for what purpose. God has one purpose but many plans and many players. As a football coach, I have many players and plays and use different personnel for different circumstances. Often, we run in a different player to tell the play to our team based on circumstances such as down and yardage.

Remember, God does not change, nor can He lie. So how do you explain contradictions like the fact that in *Genesis 1:29 “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*

*(vs 30) And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. God tells Adam every tree of the Garden is to be meat for him. Then later God says that Noah can eat flesh of animals for meat! Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*

*2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moves upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

*3 Every moving thing that lives shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*

Obviously, something changed. Circumstances. Sin entered the world. So God changed His rules. Does this happen often? Well how about in the New Testament? Paul says to abstain from Marriage and then says it is OK. *1 Cor 1:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.* Later in Timothy he says: *1 Tim 5:14: "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully".*

Other times he says follow the law. Then he says there are only a few things to follow. What changed? Circumstances. Sometimes God foretold that the circumstances and the faith of Israel would change and therefore He kept some "secrets" from them. Note in Mathew:

*(Mat 13:11 KJV) He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

*(Mat 13:35 KJV) That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*

Here is the word Mysteries or Secret. Why are there secrets? Well in Football we don't want the other team to know what we are doing so we keep it secret. But the plays we call have been used before and if the other team just watches film of us they would learn what we are doing.

God says that some will hear and some won't. Some will hear and forget. Let's look at Mark:

*(Mark 4:1 KJV) And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.*

*(Mark 4:2 KJV) And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,*

*(Mark 4:3 KJV) Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:*

*(Mark 4:4 KJV) And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.*

*(Mark 4:5 KJV) And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:*

*(Mark 4:6 KJV) But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.*

*(Mark 4:7 KJV) And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.*

*(Mark 4:8 KJV) And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.*

*(Mark 4:9 KJV) And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*(Mark 4:10 KJV) And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.*

*(Mark 4:11 KJV) And he said unto them, unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:*

*(Mark 4:12 KJV) That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

*(Mark 4:13 KJV) And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables?*

*(Mark 4:14 KJV) The sower soweth the word.*

*(Mark 4:15 KJV) And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

*(Mark 4:16 KJV) And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;*

*(Mark 4:17 KJV) And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

*(Mark 4:18 KJV) And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,*

*(Mark 4:19 KJV) And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

*(Mark 4:20 KJV) And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty fold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

*(Mark 4:21 KJV) And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?*

*(Mark 4:22 KJV) For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.*

*(Mark 4:23 KJV) If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.*

So, which are you? Are you on good ground. If so you are growing. If not, you are never going to produce fruit. God knowing this, says why should I share everything with everyone. Some want to know, and they will search the truth out. Others won't work that hard and really don't care.

Note that the secret was kept secret "From" the foundation of the world. Another secret in Romans was kept secret "Since" the world began.

*(Rom 16:25 KJV) Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,*

So, some secrets are based on timing. Others are just HIDDEN or hard to understand.

*(1 Cor 2:7 KJV) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

*(1 Cor 2:8 KJV) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

Other secrets or mysteries are a foretelling of something to come that is not told to everyone.

*(1 Cor 15:51 KJV) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

Some are revealed for a purpose and some just because of His Good pleasure.

*(Eph 1:9 KJV) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

*(Eph 1:10 KJV) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

*(Eph 1:11 KJV) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

*(Eph 1:12 KJV) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

But note this Mystery revealed in Ephesians.

*(Eph 3:3 KJV) How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,*

*(Eph 3:4 KJV) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

*(Eph 3:5 KJV) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.*

This was never revealed to others until NOW, and to Paul only.

Then he says:

*(Eph 3:6 KJV) That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

*(Eph 3:7 KJV) Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

*(Eph 3:8 KJV) Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

*(Eph 3:9 KJV) And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

*(Eph 3:10 KJV) To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

Note that it is not been seen FROM the Beginning of the world. So this Mystery was never prophesized, but really was God's "secret"!

But note that Paul says he wants to speak about it **BOLDLY!**

*(Eph 6:19 KJV) And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

*(Eph 6:20 KJV) For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Another time Paul says that it is his ministry or stewardship or dispensation as a minister to fulfill the word of God by telling the Mystery or secret.

*(Col 1:25 KJV) Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;*

*(Col 1:26 KJV) Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:*

*(Col 1:27 KJV) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:***

So what is the "Secret" here? He is speaking to Gentile believers not Jews or Israel. He goes on to say the phrase "**Christ in you**". What he is saying that Christ is now available to Gentiles **with no mediator**. Before, the Jew was our mediator and that done by a high priest. Now we have a direct relationship with Christ as God.

Wow, no wonder the Jews threw a fit when Paul revealed this secret. They were no longer the chosen nation of God. There was no preference. Christ the high priest whom they rejected was now accepted by the Gentiles because they would HEAR! This was revealed in Acts 28:28.

*(Acts 28:28 KJV) Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.*

And Paul tells us later in Timothy:

*(1 Tim 3:16 KJV) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen*

*of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

So, you see this was a huge Mystery that had been hid. God in His sovereignty reveals it to whom He will, because He knows they will listen. But first you must have a desire to know the truth.

Then you need to start reading the Bible not as a novel with a beginning and an ending, but as a book that was dropped and the binding broken. All the pages then flew out and some men tried to piece it all together and they got the order wrong. Revelation is not the last book of the Bible. Paul was the last writer, and he wrote 14 epistles. Seven were written before he was imprisoned and 7 written after Acts 28:28. Look for yourself. Don't take my word or the word of any other "Bible expert", Pastor, or minister. Use *II Tim 2:15* as a guide or basis for your studies: "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.***"

See what the word tells you thru the Holy Spirit. Remember: *I Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.* Notice it says Christ Jesus and not Jesus Christ nor just Jesus? Why? That's another "secret" you will have to seek out!