

## **The Mysteries from Paul**

- I.** The special role of the Apostle Paul in the writing of the New Testament.
  1. Paul was personally taught by Christ (Acts 26:16 *cf.* 1 Cor. 11:23).
  2. Paul was given the responsibility, stewardship, to “bring to light” the Dispensation of Grace (Eph. 3:8-9; Col. 1:25; 1 Tim. 1:4).
  3. Paul reveals the mysteries as a means to mature spiritually (1 Cor. 2:6-7).
- II.** Paul’s use of “mystery”.
  1. A ‘mystery’ is truth previously having been hidden: New Testament truth (Rom. 16:25; Col. 1:26).
  2. A ‘mystery’ is truth that is not difficult to understand (Rom. 16:26; Col. 1:26).
  3. The mysteries are truth necessary to mature spiritually (Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:28).

A mystery is truth that was hidden, but now is revealed—no longer hidden. Paul’s mysteries are for Christian maturing. Once a mystery is revealed, it is no longer a mystery.
- III.** The Paul’s mysteries are for Christians to practice, not just for head knowledge.
  1. They are for obedience regarding faith (Rom. 16:26).
  2. They are for all types of peoples (Rom. 16:26; Col. 1:23, 27).
  3. They are for maturing in Christ (Col. 1:28).
  4. The mysteries reveal that God has provided New Testament saints better things than the previous believers (Heb. 11:39-40).
  5. The mysteries provide means to conduct a lifestyle that gains experiential knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 3:18).
- IV.** Missuses of the Pauline mysteries:
  1. Sometimes they are lumped together with the Gospel for salvation, which was in existence prior to ‘the Damascus Road’ and thus not a mystery (Acts 2:22-39; 10:34-44).
  2. The Gospel for salvation was predicted by Old Testament prophets; thus, not a mystery (Rom. 1:1-4).
  3. There are 12 Pauline mysteries, not just one.