

The Mysteries from Paul *The New Creation*

- I.** The Pauline mysteries are for Christian spiritual maturing.
 1. A mystery was truth previously hidden but now made plain by Paul's explanation (Rom. 16:25; Col. 1:26).
 2. Paul had a special relationship with Christ and role in explaining the Christian life (Eph. 3:2-3).
- II. The Christ** (Eph. 3:4).
 1. The Christ is the relationship of the Body to the Head, it is the result of Spirit baptism (1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Col. 1:18; 2:19).
 2. The Christ is not a mystery since Paul had already explained The Christ before revealing the mystery regarding The Christ (1 Cor. 1:13 *cf.* Eph. 3:3-4).
 3. Christ has placed Himself in an interdependent relationship with the Body (1 Cor. 12:21, Acts 26:14).
 4. Caution: most of the uses of "the Christ" are referring to the Person, not this specific relationship (*e.g.*, 1 Cor. 10:16; 15:15; 2 Cor. 4:4).
- III.** The Mystery regarding The Christ as a new creation (Eph. 3:3-4).
 1. The "workmanship", or better 'crafted work' was created in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:10).
 2. He created in Himself one New Man (Eph. 2:15).
 - 1) One man from two.
 - 2) Two: Gentiles and Jews (Eph. 2:11-12).
 - 3) One: One Body (Eph. 2:16).
 3. The New Man is called the new creation; it is an imputed existence.
 4. Christ and those in Him make up the created New Man (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15).
- IV.** The Christian who knows about the participation in the New Man, the new creation, comprehends his diametrical opposition to the old man and his deeds (Col. 3:9-10).
 1. He understands the responsibility of living a Christ-like life.
 2. He has confidence in the provisions provided him to live a Christ-like life.