

## **The Mystery of The Faith**

1 Timothy 3:8-9

- I.** Distinguishing the difference of other uses of The Faith, none of which were mysteries.
1. The Faith as a body of doctrine to stand against Satan (Eph. 6:16).
  2. The Faith as a body of doctrine to overcome the three spiritual enemies (Col. 1:23; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Tit. 1:11-13).
  3. The Faith as a reference to general Grace doctrine (Gal. 6:10; 2 Tim. 4:8).
- II.** Background to The Mystery of The Faith (1 Tim. 3:8-9).
1. A requirement for the elected office of deacon (1 Tim. 3:8).
  2. “Not greedy for material gain” means he do not apply business values to the church.
  3. “Clean conscience”, in this context, means that he considers his actions based on the grace principles.
  4. The office of deacon is a representative of the church and is in charge of the material possessions of the church (Acts 6:1-7); Phil. 1:1).
  5. The primary role of the local church is to its members (Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 5:1-11).
  6. Individuals are to witness to the unsaved by lifestyle (1 Cor. 10:31-32; 1 Pet. 3:15).
  7. Individuals witness to the unsaved by word regarding the Gospel (Mt. 28:19-20; Rom. 1:14-16).
  8. The local church is not to reform the government (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:12-15).
- III.** Application of the Mystery of The Faith.
1. It is necessary for the deacon to perform his role.
  2. He must know the profound difference between the approach to material possessions in the Old and New Testaments (Duet. 7:12-24 *cf.* Phil 4:12; 1 Tim. 6:8).
  3. Hid must disregard the principles of the Law and its genealogies (1 Tim. 1:7-11; Gal. 3:28).
- Summary:** the Mystery of The Faith is that only a dispensationally oriented deacon can correctly oversee the church’s material possessions because he will keep the New Testament perspective that emphasizes spiritual growth over material gain or accompanying numerical gain, and is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).