

Revelation of the mystery – Grace is not a consolation prize

The saved have had a personal revelation of the mystery. We have seen “what is the fellowship of the mystery”. My revelation of the mystery came when I was shown from scripture that salvation by grace to those who believe the ‘foolishness’ of the preaching of the cross, had always been God’s hidden plan for redeeming us. He had kept it a secret (a mystery, not prophesied, unsearchable) since the world began.

“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; 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 3:8-9 AV)

Prior to this I had seen events after Calvary (the preaching of redemption through faith in the crucified Jewish Messiah) as a consolation prize from God because of unforeseen evil-doing by his people Israel – his primary purpose being that his Son would be accepted by his people as their Messiah and the world would be blessed through Israel’s restored physical/political kingdom. In other words, because of my ignorance of God’s foreknowledge, I had seen Calvary as a victory for evil, not as a victory for God. In fact, I don’t think I really believed that the ‘preaching of the cross’ was from God, but that Christians had dreamed it up to account for God’s seeming defeat and his subsequent silence (i.e. no signs and wonders, angels etc. for nearly two thousand years).

When I was shown how the pre-Calvary and post-Calvary dots are connected I came to see that God’s offering of salvation by grace was in fact his PRIMARY purpose, and that the restoration of the physical/political kingdom to Israel, though contingent upon the perfect sacrifice of Israel’s Messiah, was never on God’s agenda for A.D. 33 or thereabouts.

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” (Acts 1:6-7 AV)

God had ‘slipped one by’ the devil’s princes of this world.

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1Cor 2:7-8 AV)

The Lord’s closest disciples were just as much in the dark regarding God’s real purpose as Satan was, in spite of the Lord’s suffering and death for the sins of many, his burial and his resurrection on the third day, having been prophesied – his spiteful treatment and death for the iniquities of many by Isaiah (Isaiah 53) and his burial and resurrection on the third day by the pre-type of the prophet Jonah (Jonah 1:17; 2:10 - 3:2).

"But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Mat 12:39-40 AV)

"Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the *Gentiles*, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken." (Luke 18:31-34 AV)

The resurrected, ascended and glorified Lord Jesus Christ made the mystery known to his and our apostle Paul – God's hitherto unrevealed plan to set Israel aside as the vehicle for his purpose (for a time) and to establish a new creature called the Church, the body of Christ, in which all the people of earth (Jew or Gentile) were equally eligible for membership based solely upon their faith or belief in the gospel of the finished work of redemption performed by the Lord at Calvary. *[Although the Jerusalem believers since the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost were called the church of God (Galatians 1:13), and become Christ's body by the indwelling Spirit (Acts 22:8), the NEW CREATURE was not revealed until the unprophesied MYSTERIES had been revealed – particularly the fall of Israel, the equal inclusion of Gentiles and the salvation power of the preaching of the cross.]*

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." (Galatians 6:15 AV)

"Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the Church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 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:" (Col 1:24-27 AV)

To receive the Spirit of Christ, to have the mind of Christ formed in us, and to be sealed into an eternal inheritance in heaven, with a glorified, celestial body, is no consolation prize.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:12-16 AV)

"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: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:11-14 AV)

"But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh *is* not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds. *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another." (1 Corinthians 15:35-40 AV)