

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

During April, we will study a series of lessons on “the impact of Christian Church upon the world”.

I recently heard of a middle school class in California where the teacher had the class study Islam and had a day of dress up in the religious custom clothes without any objections from the ACLU or other rights issue groups. Yet they are offended with any Christian symbol on a T-shirt or prayer!

Why is the 21st. century Christian church singled out as a threat to America’s constitutional rights and freedom when its message is designed to produce a better citizen, a better worker, a better businessman and a better person?

Our lesson text comes from the 1st. Century Christian church that was also singled out as a threat: “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for (hyper + ablative) [on behalf of] the sake of you Gentiles.” (Eph.3:1)

In our lesson text, Paul explains that the majority of his suffering was the result of preaching on the MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH.

“If (1cc) [true] indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this when you read you can understand my insight into the **mystery of Christ.**” (Eph.3:2-4).

Paul chose the Greek word **musterion** (mystery) to explain the dispensational dynamics of the church in human history. Musterion is derived from museo (to be closed lipped or code of silence). It was a word used to describe the Greek fraternal order of sacred secret doctrines.

Paul used musterion to explain that he had received special revelation from the resurrected exalted Jesus Christ to announce to the whole world.

“Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has **now** been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit.” (Eph.3:5)

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery** which has been kept secret for long ages past, **but now** is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, **leading to obedience of faith.**” (Rom.16:25-26)

The Christian church is responsible to teach the mystery doctrines associated with the grace salvation of Jesus Christ to both the world and to the angels.

“In order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.” (Eph.3:10)

Today we will examine seven of these Mystery doctrines of the Christian church.
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1. Indwelling of Jesus Christ in every Church Age Believer (CAB):

(Col.1:24-29) _____

(Gal.2:20) _____

(Rom.8:29) _____

(1 Pet.2:2; Eph.4:13; 1 Tim.3:16-17).

2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit as 1 of 8 works of Holy Spirit at the moment of grace salvation.

(Eph.3:6) _____

(1 Cor.12:12-13) _____

(Isa.49:6) _____

(Eph.4:4-6; Matt.3:11; Acts 1:5; 2:33; 2 Cor.5:17; Gal.3:26-29).

3. Every CAB is an ambassador of a universal gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

(1 Pet.2:9) _____

(Rom.16:25-26) _____

(2 Cor.5:18-21) _____

(Eph.3:6 -11; 6:19-20; Titus 2:11)

4. The church is the visual identify of a new dispensation of biblical history (church age).

(Eph.1:9-10) _____

(Dan.9:24-27) _____

The Jewish age was interrupted short of Daniel's 70^h week

(Eph.3:2-5, 9-10) _____

5. The church is the dispensational bride of Jesus Christ

(Eph.5:32-33) _____

(Rev.19:7) _____

6. The Rapture of the church from the world.

(1 Cor.15:50-58) _____

(1 Thess.4:13-18) _____

7. The lawlessness of antichrist is at work in the world during the church age.

(2 Thess.2:1-10) _____

(Rom.11:11-25) _____

(1 Jn 2:18-20) _____

(1 Jn 4:4; 5:4) _____

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