

Donelson Men in Christ - 1 Corinthians 2:1,7

μυστήριον – mystery

I Corinthians 2:1,7 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom *Instead we speak the wisdom of God, veiled in mystery, that God determined before the ages for our glory.*

μυστήριον, ου, το *mystery* with reference to something previously unknown but now revealed **Mk 4:11-20**; **Ro 11:25-27**; **1 Cor 2:7; 13:2; 15:51**; **Eph 3:3f, 9**; **Col 1:25-27**; **Col 4:2-4**; **Rv 10:7**. *mystery*; (1) as a religious technical term in the cults, a religious *secret* confided only to the initiated, *secret rite*, not used in the NT; (2) in the NT; (a) as what can be known only through revelation mediated from God *what was not known before* (**MT 13:11**); (b) as a supreme redemptive revelation of God in the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ^{BGT} 1 Corinthians 4:1 οὕτως ἡμᾶς λογιζέσθω ἄνθρωπος ὡς ὑπηρέτας Χριστοῦ καὶ οἰκονόμους **μυστηρίων** θεοῦ.

Colossians 1:25- *I became Christ's servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, that is, the mystery that has been kept hidden from ages and generations, but has now been revealed to his saints. God wanted to make known to them the glorious riches of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Ephesians 1:9 *For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ.*

Ephesians 3:1- *For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles – if you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶ that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.*

Ephesians 6:18- *In all your prayer and entreaty keep praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion. Never get tired of staying awake to pray for all God's holy people, and pray for me to be given an opportunity to open my mouth and fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel of which I am an ambassador in chains; pray that in proclaiming it I may speak as fearlessly as I ought to. The purpose of this enlightenment is that through the church the multifaceted wisdom of God should now be disclosed to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly realms.*

The essential core of Christian message, Paul says, is the mystery of Christ. He writes that the preaching of the Word of God is seen in “the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to his holy people” (Col. 1:26). A mystery? All around Asia Minor and the ancient world now, there were mystery religions and mystery cults, and there were some who thought, especially from the Roman perspective, that Christianity was just another one of them. After all, it had its mystery. And Paul said, “Guilty as charged.” Yet this is not a mystery of esoteric knowledge. This is not a Gnosticism of elitist intellectuals. No, this is a mystery that was hidden in God until it could be publicly revealed in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, in his death, burial, and resurrection. This is a mystery! God would unite human beings to his Godself life through Christ by means of the Spirit. This makes God in Christ the true “seeker” and reconciler of all humans. God was in Christ reconciling all cosmos to his self. We become participants in God by participating in life in Christ. God in Christ and we in Christ – all through the Spirit.

Colossians 2:1- *I want you to know, then, what a struggle I am having on your behalf and on behalf of those in Laodicea, and on behalf of so many others who have never seen me face to face. It is all to bind them together in love and to encourage their resolution until they are rich in the assurance of their complete understanding and have knowledge of the mystery of God³ in which all the jewels of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.*

Mark 4:11 -20

To you is given the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to outsiders everything is given in parables. That is why, while they are seeing, they do not understand; while listening, they do not hear or comprehend, otherwise they might repent and be forgiven. Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The sower sows the word. Some seed of the word falls on the path; no sooner do they hear and Satan comes and takes away the word, which has been sown in them. Some seed of the word is sown upon rocky ground; as soon as they hear the word, they accept it with joy; but it does not take deep root in them, so they last only a short while and when trials or persecutions arise on account of the word, they quickly fall away. With them the word is sown among thistles; they hear the word but the cares of this world, and the false glamour of wealth, and the desire for more things, enter and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But there are some with whom the seed is sown on good soil; they accept the word when they hear and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

1 Timothy 3:16 *We profess: Great indeed, is the mystery of godliness; God was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. . . . Undeniably, the mystery intrinsic to the holy life is tremendous: He was manifested in flesh. He was authenticated in spirit. He was watched over by angels. He was proclaimed among the nations. He was trusted in the world. He was accepted above in glory.*