



Spiritual Mystery to Unveil

*Living as a Christian
In an Unchristian World*
August 23, 2009
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¹When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles ... ²assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending His grace to you Gentiles. ³As I briefly wrote earlier, God Himself revealed His mysterious plan to me. ⁴As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. ⁵God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by His Spirit He has revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets.

⁶And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. ⁷By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News.

⁸Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. ⁹I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

¹⁰God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was His eternal plan, which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹²Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. ¹³So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored. *Ephesians 3:1-13*

* All Scripture is taken from the New Living Translation SE.

The Spiritual Mystery is _____

- _____ are Invited to become God's Children
- The Church is the _____ of God's Blessings
- The Church is the _____ of God's Wisdom

²Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. *Romans 5:2*

¹⁴So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. ¹⁶So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

¹⁰This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. ¹¹They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when He told them in advance about Christ's suffering and His great glory afterward. ¹²They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen. *1 Peter 1:10-12*

¹⁹For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" *2 Corinthians 5:19-20*

³⁶For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory. All glory to Him forever! Amen. *Romans 11:36*