

mystery of Christ is the riches of God's grace the church receives freely in Christ.

*"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;" - Eph 3:8*

It was a great mystery that God would accomplish everything that we needed for salvation and then graciously bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Eph 1:3).

*"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 1:25*

## 6. Christ Over All

It was not a mystery that God wanted earthly dominion through his nation Israel and his chosen Messiah, since it was prophesied since the world began.

It was a mystery how God would have dominion in heavenly places, but now by the revelation of the mystery of Christ we know it is by the church.

*"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: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the*

*manifold wisdom of God" - Eph 3:9-10*

It is the mystery of God's will that all things be in Christ in the end.

*"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" - Eph 1:9-10*

## Summary

We have seen the mystery of Christ to include the preaching of the cross to all men in order to form a new creature called the church, that receives the riches of Christ, to reign and rule with Christ forever in heavenly places. What a glorious mystery, indeed!

It is a shame that the mystery of Christ remains a mystery to so many people. It is our duty as stewards to make all men see the fellowship of this mystery, so that more souls may be saved and serve the Lord in glory.

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# What is the Mystery of Christ

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**"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" - Ephesians 3:3-4**

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## The Secret Things of God

There are things that God knows that we don't. Deut 29:29 calls them the secret things of God. Perhaps you have heard people describe God as working in "mysterious ways". That is because God alone understands all the mysteries of the

universe, creation, time, and the purpose of man.

## **The Mystery of Christ**

When we read the Bible we find that there are many revealed mysteries. 1 Cor 4:2 says we are to be stewards of these mysteries. To be good stewards we must know the mysteries and be faithful to keep them.

The most important mystery in the Bible is the mystery of Christ revealed to Paul to Gentiles which is said to “fulfill the word of God” (Col 1:25). Romans 16:25 calls it the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, but what is this mystery of Christ?

### **1. Christ not of Israel**

The law, prophets, and psalms prophesied of a Messiah come to Israel. The Lord Jesus Christ came to Israel in the flesh to fulfill of those prophecies (Rom 9:5). However, we do not know Christ after the flesh any longer (2 Cor 5:16). The mystery explains that Israel is blinded and yet Christ is still preached to Gentiles. Christ is not only of Israel, but preached to all.

*“I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” - Rom 11:25*

### **2. Christ Revealed to Paul**

The preaching of Christ in this mystery to Gentiles was specifically given to Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles.

*“How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)” - Eph 3:1-4*

### **3. The Gospel of Christ Crucified**

This mystery of Christ to Paul was of gospel importance (1 Cor 9:16-17).

*“[Pray] for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel” - Eph 6:19*

This mystery of the gospel concerned the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

*“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.” - 1 Cor 2:7-8*

The mystery of Christ includes what Christ did by the hidden wisdom of God on the cross that made salvation available to all men (Rom 1:16). Paul declared this gospel

mystery as the preaching of the cross, the power of God unto salvation (1 Cor 2:2-5).

*“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” - 1 Cor 1:18*

### **4. Christ, and His Body, the Church**

The mystery of Christ concerns not only the gospel of our salvation, but our new identity in Christ. Paul says the mystery of Christ is that we are all of the same body in Christ:

*“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel”- Eph 3:4-6*

This one body is called the church, which is His body (Col 1:18, Eph 1:22-23).

*“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” - Eph 5:32*

Unlike the nation God had established to have dominion on the earth, this church is called a new creature.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” - 2 Cor 5:17*

### **5. The Riches of Christ**

One of the most neglected aspects of the