

**Parson to Person**  
**1 Corinthians 4 (Part 2)**  
**(Stewards of The Mysteries)**

*“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.*

*Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*

*You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own*

*hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.*

*I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, imitate me. For this reason, I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

*Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?"* (1 Corinthians 4:1–21).

## **“The Mysteries of God”**

Paul was given the unique privilege and responsibility to “*steward...the mysteries of God.*” He was not alone in this task, but was indeed used in great measure by the Lord.

I have synthesized and categorized the “mysteries” mentioned in Scriptures to a list of twelve. The list is systematically organized as progressive from Genesis to Revelation via the complete and interconnected pages of Scripture—therefore, an obvious flow is present. When the Bible student takes the time to list and examine each “mystery,” he or she will discover that all are foundational to a full grasp of God’s word as revealed. Herein then, I must mention that we know much, but nonetheless “*see through a glass dimly*”

(1 Corinthians 13:12). When we see the Lord “*face to face*,” we will have greater clarity.

This brief overview will be helpful and provide opportunity for further study.

### **What is a Biblical “Mystery?”**

A Biblical “mystery” is nothing dark, scary, secret, or hidden. The mysteries referenced in the New Testament are early truths, predicated in the Old Testament, now made clearer through revelation and/or fruition. Several “mysteries” have come into fulfillment in and through the work of Jesus. Others are awaiting full revelation/realization.

My dear friend Chuck Missler said many times, “The New Testament is in the Old Testament Concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New Testament Revealed.” This quote best defines the meaning of the “mysteries” of the Scriptures.

### **What are the “Mysteries”**

Here they are (in my selected order):

- 1) The Mystery of the Godhead—God the Father, the Divine Nature of Jesus as God the Son Incarnate, and the Person of the Holy Spirit.  
Colossians 2:1–3, and 9
- 2) The Mystery of Iniquity.  
2 Thessalonians 2:7

- 3) The Mysteries of the Gospel—The Plan of Salvation: Jesus as Lamb of God, Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone, Imputed Godliness.  
John 1:29 and 36, Romans 16:25–26, Ephesians 1:7–9, Ephesians 2:8–9, Ephesians 6:19, 1 Timothy 3:9 and 16
- 4) Mystery Babylon.  
Revelation 17
- 5) The Mysteries of Israel: Election, Significance, Instruction, Failure, Discipline, Repentance, Restoration, and Glorification.  
Romans 9, 10, and 11
- 6) The Mystery of the Church.  
Romans 10:19–20, Romans 11:11 and 25, Revelation 1:19–20
- 7) The Mystery of Christ’s Indwelling Presence.  
Colossians 1:26–27
- 8) The Mysteries of Marriage and Leadership as a Model of Christ and the Church.  
Ephesians 5:32, Revelation 1:20
- 9) The Mysteries of the Unification of All Believers—Israel/Gentile Engrafting.  
Romans 11:25, Ephesians 1:10, Ephesians 3:1–6
- 10) The Mysteries of the Eschaton—the End Times.  
Revelation 10:7
- 11) The Mysteries of the Believer’s Physical Resurrection.  
1 Corinthians 15:51
- 12) The Mysteries of the Kingdom—Universal and Theocratic

Matthew 13:11, Mark 4:11, and Luke 8:10

Take the time to study these “mysteries” and learn this material. It will benefit you greatly as you gain an overall picture of God’s work in creation, the origin and problem of sin (via the fall of man), redemption, restoration, and the future glorification of the righteous.

All that God has done is part of His foreknown purpose and plan. We are not a cosmic accident; redemption is not a plan “B;” and our future with Him is set and certain.

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul