

EVERYBODY'S SECRET - ROM. 16:25,26

I. ITS IDENTIFICATION

1. CALLED A "MYSTERY", WORD USED BY PAUL 20 TIMES.

A. A HEATHEN MYSTERY WAS SOMETHING ALWAYS KEPT SECRET FROM THE BULK OF MANKIND - A SECRET TO WHICH ONLY A PRIVILEGED FEW WERE ADMITTED. IT ENCOURAGED SELFISHNESS & EXCLUSIVENESS.

B. A CHRISTIAN MYSTERY IS TRUTH WHICH NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN KNOWN WITHOUT REVELATION.

C. THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM. (MT. 13:35)

(1). THE ATONEMENT - *I know not why God's wondrous grace...*

(2). FORGIVENESS OF SIN

(3). THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, 1 COR 15:51.

(4). ETERNAL LIFE

(5). THE CALLING OF THE GENTILES, AND Eph. 3:3,5,6

(6). THE INDWELLING OF CHRIST, COL. 1:26,27

2. HERE THE TERM IS SYNONYMOUS WITH

A. "MY GOSPEL" - THE GOSPEL AS PREACHED BY PAUL

(1). DECLARES A SPIRITUAL NEED

(2). FILLS THIS SPIRITUAL NEED.

B. "THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST" - THAT IS,

THE PREACHING MADE BY JESUS CHRIST PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS MAN'S ONLY SALVATION.

II. ITS CONCEALMENT.

1. KEPT SECRET. - "HUSHED IN SILENCE"

A. THE JEWS HAD GLIMPSES, BUT THEY DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND GOD'S GRACIOUS PLAN OF SALVATION FOR MANKIND.

B. THE GENTILES HAD FAILED TO GAIN EVEN A GLIMPSE OF IT.

C. UNREGENERATED PEOPLE TODAY DO NOT UNDERSTAND. *(one lawyer said another didn't know the Lord's Prayer)*

2. "SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN." - DURING THE AGES OF TIMES.

3. WHY DID GOD PERMIT IT TO BE KEPT SECRET ALL THIS TIME? - BECAUSE THE WORLD HAD TO BE PREPARED FOR IT.

III. ITS REVELATION, V. 26.

1. IT IS NOW MADE MANIFEST.

A. THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY IS SOMETHING ONCE HIDDEN BUT NOW MADE KNOWN, NOT TO A SELECT FEW, BUT TO ALL.

B. HERE IS A SPLENDID PARADOX - A SECRET REVEALED TO EVERYONE.

C. PAUL RARELY USES THE WORD MYSTERY WITHOUT SOME OTHER WORD SIGNIFYING TO REVEAL, MANIFEST, OR MAKE KNOWN.

1 COR. 2:1,7; 15:51

EPH. 1:9; 3:3,5,6; 4:19

COL. 1:26, 27; 2:2; 4:3,4

2. HOW IS IT REVEALED?

A. BY THE SCRIPTURES OF THE PROPHETS

B. BY THE PERSON OF CHRIST

C. BY THE SPEECH OF THE CHRISTIANS

D. ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, (THE GREAT COMMISSION).

THE SOVEREIGN PURPOSE OF GOD. ~~THE TEMPEST REACHES BUT A FEW FATHOMS BELOW THE SURFACE, AND WAVES THAT STREW THE OCEAN WITH WRECKS~~

(COVER)

THE TEMPEST REACHES BUT A FEW FATHOMS BELOW THE SURFACE,
AND THE WAVES THAT STREW THE OCEAN WITH WRECKS
ARE ONLY RIPPLES IN THE MIGHTY CURRENTS
THAT ROLL UNCEASING IN THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD.

3. TO WHOM IS IT REVEALED? TO ALL NATIONS.

4. WHY IS THIS SECRET REVEALED TO EVERYBODY?

FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH.

A. G. P. C. = Go Preach Christ, or "Go phew son!"

C. ~~Settle~~ it Now!

B. Little boy whose father told him not to climb trees -

CONCLUSION:

1. TO THE CHRISTIAN:

HOW CAN YOU BE AT EASE WITH LOST SOULS IN YOUR FAMILY,
YOUR S.S. CLASS, YOUR COMMUNITY, AND IN THE WORLD?

2. TO THE UNSAVED:

IF YOU DO NOT PUT YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST FOR SALVATION,
THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU IN THIS WORLD BUT DISAPPOINTMENT,
AND IN THE WORLD TO COME ETERNAL DEATH.

H.M. 11/7/54