



Romans 16:25-27 (NASB77)

²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

²⁵ *Now to Him who is able to **establish** you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,*

- **“To establish you”** means to render you firm and constant, to keep you from falling. *stērizō*, "to make stable, place firmly, set fast, to strengthen, make firm.”
- God has all power and ability to **establish** believers in the truth, that our FAITH might be fixed on God's **FACTS.**

*²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you **according to my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,*

The establishing takes place in agreement with **the gospel Paul preached**. When it is achieved, **the Romans will be settled and confirmed in their faith**.

The expression "**my gospel**" is found in only 2 other places in the Bible.

1. Romans 2:16 ¹⁶on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

2. 2 Timothy 2:8 ⁸remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel.

In what sense then was it Paul's good news?

Two reasons

1. In the sense that it was **entrusted to him.**

a) **1 Timothy 1:11** *¹¹according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.*

b) **A stewardship of the gospel is communicated to me.**

1Cor 9:16-17¹⁶ *For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.* ¹⁷*For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. A stewardship of the gospel.*

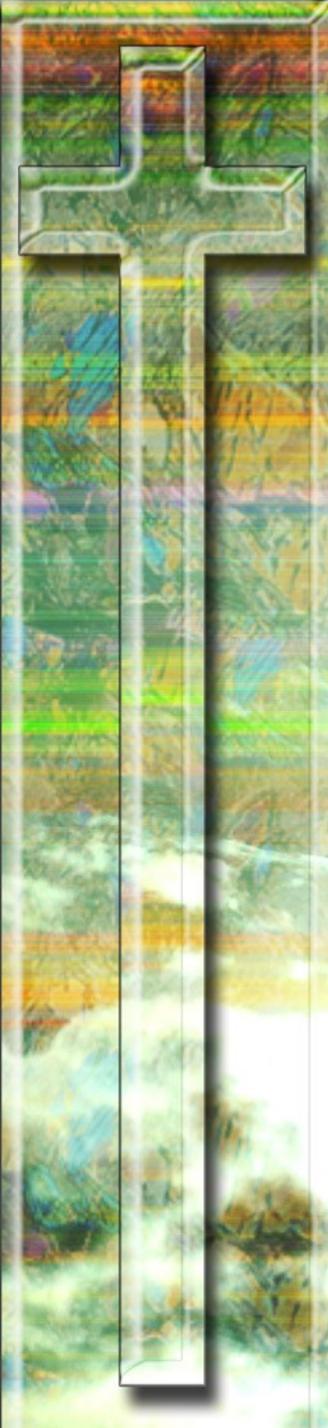
2. In the sense that it was **uniquely revealed to him.**

Galatians 1:12 *¹²For I neither received it from man, nor was I*



Rom. 16:24 and the preaching of Jesus Christ,

- ❖ *Paul's gospel centered in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ❖ *He not only preached Christ (2 Cor. 4:5) but he rejoiced whenever others preached Christ (Phil 1:18).*
- ❖ *Paul made it clear from the start of this epistle that Jesus Christ, God's eternal son, was the center and the core of the gospel (Rom. 1:1-4).*
- ❖ *And when Paul preached the mystery of the gospel among the Gentiles, he did not neglect to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8).*
- ❖ *Only as we are separated unto and devoted to*



*²⁵Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery** which has been kept secret for long ages past,*

Error #1 Paul was the only person who received the revelation of the mystery.

Corrected by **Eph 3:5*** which teaches that mystery truth was revealed to God's holy apostle and prophets. Mystery truth was not given to him exclusively. He was not the only steward of the mysteries of God (**1 Cor. 4:1-2**)*.

Error #2 Mystery truth was not made known until Paul revealed it. The mysteries of God are revealed in all the

Mystery truth had been revealed, at least in germ form, by our Lord Jesus Christ. **Matthew 13 and in the Upper Room Discourse of **John 14-17**.**

Some Examples,

- 1. The mystery of the church** was anticipated in *Matthew 13:45-46*.
- 2. The mystery of “Christ in you”, Col. 1:27** was **anticipated** in *John 14:20 and 17:23*.
- 3. The mystery of the oneness of Christ and His church, Eph. 5:31-32** was **anticipated** in *John 17:21-23*.
- 4. The mystery of the rapture, 1 Cor. 15:51-52** was **anticipated** in *John 14:1-3*.
- 5. The mystery of the present status of the nation of Israel, Rom 11:25** was **anticipated** in *Matt 13:44*.
- 6. The mystery of Jews and Gentiles being united together in one body (Eph. 3:5-6)** was **anticipated** in *John 10:16*.

*according to **the revelation of the mystery** which has been kept secret for long ages past, (in times eternal, having been kept secret Interlinear)*

There are five passages which clearly define what a New Testament mystery is. They are as **1. Ephesians 3:4-5 (NASB77)**

*⁴ And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,
⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit.*

2. ***Ephesians 3:9 (NASB77)***

9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things.

3. ***Colossians 1:26 (NASB77)***

26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints.

4. ***Matthew 13:35 (NASB77)***

35 so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, " I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

5. **“Romans 16:26 (NASB77)**

²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.

In light of these five passages, we can develop the following definition of a New Testament mystery:

A New Testament mystery is that which was hidden, kept secret, and not made known to men in previous generations [prior to Paul's generation] but was made clear and revealed in

*²⁶but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, **has been made known to all the nations,** leading to obedience of faith.*

“The Mystery Which Had Been Kept Secret”

God had a sovereign purpose to take certain creatures into His own Glory, to share in that Glory.

And He desired also that these should know Him in His nature as Love, and be with Him, before Him, in that blissful atmosphere of pure love, forever.*

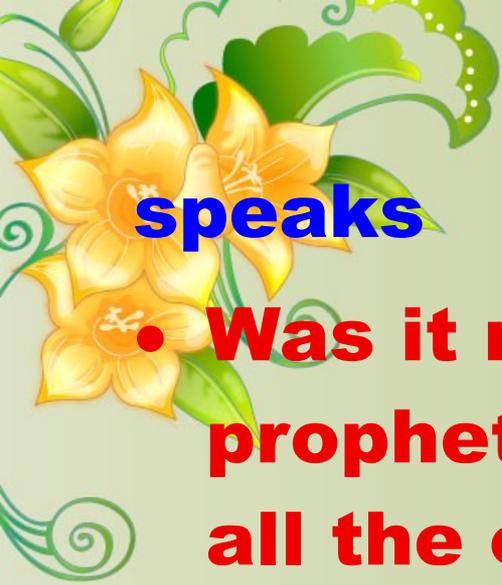




²⁶ ...according to the commandment of the eternal God, *has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.*

It was God's purpose to clearly reveal Himself—all that He is,—not in holiness and righteousness and truth only, but in His infinite Love, Grace,

But, His love, mercy, and gracious tenderness toward sinners, the Son of God goes to the cross. And there is revealed the eternal unchangeable holiness of God in hatred of sin, together with that love capable of giving the Son of His delight to bear sin for a world that rejected and despised His Son!



speaks

But *this mystery* of which Paul was not yet revealed.

- **Was it not prophesied in the Psalms and prophets, and witnessed in the types of all the offerings, that the Son of God, the Messiah, would suffer, and that for human sin? *Yes***
- *“Thus. it is written in the law, the prophets and the psalms, that Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day,” our Risen Lord said to His disciples in Luke 24:44-46.*
- And **“the mystery” had been “hid in God who created all things,”—hid “from the ages and**



What then, is the *mystery?*

It is wrapped up, (though not revealed) in our Lord's words in His great heavenly prayer of **John 17**: For here we find Him praying for a company given Him by the Father out of the world.

- **Jn 17:22**, our Lord Jesus says plainly: *"The glory which You have given Me I have given unto them."*
- **So that this glory into which**

This is the foundation for the revelation of “the Mystery.”

- Certain were to be brought, in Christ, *into the Divine glory!*
- They are to be “*manifested with Him in glory,*” at His appearing.
- And that is because they had entered into a glory never before given creatures!
- It was not given to angels, seraphim, or cherubim, but to blood-bought sinners as *members of Christ!*
- Nor was such a union proposed to earthly Israel. **Saved Israel will, indeed “see the glory of God”**; “*Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty,*” is promised to that beloved, *restored nation (Isa 33:17)*: and
- That, over restored Jerusalem, “*the glory shall be spread a covering*” (Isa 4:2-6).
- **But there was never a hint in the Old Testament that there would be a heavenly calling,—a company who would enter into that glory—be glorified with**

This is the secret, the mystery, “kept in silence through times of ages,” the unfolding of which Paul declares will establish the saints!

- For it involves the revelation to us **that we were** “*chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world*”!
- **That we were** foreknown and foreordained to be “*conformed to the image of God’s Son, that He might be “The First-born among many brethren*”!
- **That we**, having a sinful history in Adam the first, would not only have our sins put away, in God’s grace, by the blood of Christ. Rm. 3:25
- **That we would be** so identified with Christ, by God’s astonishing act, as to be **cut off from all connection with the first Adam** and be created in His Son, now risen from the dead! *Gal. 2:20*
- **That we** would not only be enlived with Him, but be raised up with Him, and made to sit with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus! *Eph. 1*

That we, in *“the riches of the glory of this mystery, Christ would be in us, dwelling in our hearts by faith, in the energy of the Holy Spirit!”* **(Col 1:27; Eph 3:14-21)**.

- **That our** hearts being as a “mirror,” we would behold the glory of the Lord, and be transformed into His image, *“from glory to glory,”* [here below \(2 Cor 3:18\)](#).
- **That,** at our Lord’s second coming, our bodies would be instantly redeemed, (*“these bodies of our humiliation,”* so that would, by Christ’s *“fashioning them anew,”* be at once *“conformed to the body of His glory”*; [1 Cor 15:51-53](#)).
- **So that** “we should be like Him, for we shall see Him even as He is”!—
- **That,** in *“the ages to come,”* God will *“show the exceeding riches of His grace, in kindness to us, in Christ Jesus”* ([Eph 2:7](#)).
- **That** Christ and His Bride, the Church, shall be forever together: *“That they may be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory which Thou hast given Me; and the glory which Thou Hast given Me I have given unto them.”* [Eph. 1:23; 2:10; 1 Cor 1](#)

What should our reaction be to these things?

1 Timothy 4:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

1 Timothy 4:15 (NASB77)

¹⁵ Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

Interlinear *These things be diligent in these things be involved that your progress manifest may be to all.**

1. **We shall see** and realize that our history in the first Adam was ended at the cross.

2. **We shall see** that the Christ with Whom God has now connected us is wholly a heavenly Christ, and that neither Christ nor those in Him have anything to do with Israel after the flesh, to whom the Law was given, and to whom the Messiah came.

3. **We shall see** ourselves vitally connected with, joined to, this heavenly Christ, so that we have been received in Christ as **belonging to heaven**, "**even as He**"; that we are "**the righteousness of God in Him**"; that we are loved even as He; and that **our citizenship is in heaven**. *

Adapted from
W.R.Newell

4. **We shall see** that blindness has befallen Israel;

- the mystery of lawlessness is working;
- that the earthly testimony of the Church has failed;
- that iniquity will abound and ***“evil men and seducers wax worse and worse”*** in professing Christendom—of all these things we shall be certain:
- but knowing them beforehand, and understanding that the course of things on earth has nothing to do with our heavenly calling, we shall continue steadfast in faith.

5. **An ever-deepening humility** will be wrought in us by the knowledge that we have been called into this Divine union, so that there is fulfilled in us what our Lord prayed for: ***“That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in us”***:

6. **Not only humility, but hope**—the true hope of the instructed Christian, will rise and well up in our hearts: ***“Looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13)***.

7. **As a result** the believer walks consciously justified from all things, and in newness of life (*Romans*); **as a** new creature in Christ (*II Corinthians*); **as made alive** together with Christ, raised up in Him, and made to sit with Him in the heavenlies (*Ephesians*); **as a result**, with Paul as the example, he runs His course toward Christ Himself (*Philippians*); **as walking** through many dangers on this earth, yet “*holding fast the Head*,” in Whom is all fulness, and in Whom, in constant appropriation of His fulness, the believer is **being made full** (*Colossians*); and with ever-absorbing hope he expects the day when Christ shall appear, and he become “*in a moment*” “*like* *II: 7*” “*seeing Him as He is*” (*1 Thim. 6:16*).

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

