

The Mystery of The Church Age (01)

PREFACE

The preface is to prepare you, a Bible Student for the study of the Mystery Doctrines of The Church through the ministry of The Indwelling Holy Spirit. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:13-14)

It is important to understand that this material contains Spiritual Truth for the "spiritual person" and is not intended for the "natural person". "But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." (1 Cor.2:14)

The "natural man" is a person who had not believed the Gospel that Jesus Christ died for his sins was buried and raised from the dead on the third to give him eternal life as a gift of salvation. Read (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; John 10:28).

The "spiritual person" is one who has believed the gospel for his eternal salvation. "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God." (1 Cor.2:12; Gal.3:2; 1 Cor.6:19-20)

The Christian can be spiritual or carnal depending on whether he walks by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit or by means of his flesh (old sin-nature and personal sin) Read (1 Cor.3:1-3; James 1:14-15).

These are mutual exclusives in Christian Way of Life (CWL) and break fellowship with the Lord (Gal.5:16-17; 1 John 1:5, 8-9).

The Christian must examine his spiritual status regarding carnality and personal sins by these three categories: (1 Cor.3:3) (Rom.13:13-14).

- Mental attitude sins
- Sins of the tongue
- Overt sins

The carnal Christian is restored to fellowship with the Lord and filled with the Indwelling Holy Spirit when he confesses his personal sins.

(1 John 1:9) "**If we** confess our sins, **He is** faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (Eph.5:18)

It is important to yield to the teaching ministry of the Indwelling Holy Spirit so that knowledge of God's Word can become the truth that sets you free from worldly thinking.

(1 John 2:27) "As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him." (1 Jn. 2:15-17; John 8:32)

Therefore, in preparation for this Series of studies on the Mystery Doctrines of The Church, take a moment to reflect, in the privacy of your own heart, upon any unconfessed mental attitude sin, sin of the tongue or overt sin, and if there be any, acknowledge and confess them now prior to study so that The Holy Spirit can teach you Spiritual Truth.

Introduction to the Mystery Doctrines of the Church Age

(Col.1:26) “**The mystery** (to musterion / n.s.n) **which has been hidden** (to apokrupto / perf.p.ptc.n.s.n) **from** (apo+abl.of time) **the past ages** (ton aion / abl.pl.m) **and from generations** (kai apo ton genea / abl.pl.f), **but** (de / adversative conjunction) **now** (nun) [temporal adverb] **has been manifested** (phaneroo / a.p.ind.3p.s) **to His** (autos / g.s.m) **saints** (tois hagios/ d.pl.m).”

THE MYSTERY

- **Secret concealed** (hidden) Past ages and generations
- **Secret revealed** (manifested) Now to his saints

NOTE: The Greek word for mystery is musterion. It is derived from the Greek word, muein. Muein means to close the lips or to keep a secret or to take a vow of silence.

Today's lesson will study three points of Introduction of Mystery Doctrines (MY0).

1. The term [Musterion] has a history in pagan religions involving all of the nations which had a divine influence over Israel (Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome).

[Musterion] was associated with a fraternal order within these pagan religions which had secret doctrines.

The person initiated into the fraternity was called a [mustes]. The mystery doctrines of a fraternity were only revealed to the [mustes] who were sworn to silence. The mystery doctrines were only secret in the sense that they were previously unknown to those being initiated into the fraternal order.

These mystery doctrines contained the plans and destiny of the gods of the fraternal order. These were only revealed to the [mustes] so that they could actively participate in this plan and destiny.

2. Paul chose [musterion] to describe Ten Mystery Doctrines of the church.

The term [Musterion] is used twenty seven times in the New Testament. Of those twenty seven times, it was used twenty times by Paul in reference to the Mystery Doctrines of the Church.

They are specific doctrines pertaining to the church of Jesus Christ not revealed to past ages and generations of believers.

[Musterion] is always associated with a verb of revelation or proclamation to identify a doctrine (Col.1:26) (apokrupto and phaneroo).

3. The Jew had been given the mystery of the Kingdom of God, but they rejected the revelation of the Mystery (Matt.13:10-17, 34-35; 21:33-46; John 16:25-33).