

The Calling of the One Body

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The Mystery

The Mystery Hid:

Romans 16:25, 26
Deut. 29:29
Colossians 1:26
I Corinthians 2:7-10
Ephesians 1:9

There is no greater subject for the Church than the Great Mystery. That which God concealed has now been revealed. This whole period of time in which we live is called "the Administration of the Mystery" If Satan would have known it, he never would have crucified Jesus Christ. The mystery is the Purpose of the Ages.

Background to The Mystery:

Malachi 3:6
Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25 - God is no respecter of persons.
Deut. 7: 6; 6:4, 5. 13-15. 18,19; 7:1-9
Deut. 32:7-12

God does not change. He has always wanted a people to be His own. In the Old Testament God chose Israel - Beloved of God - to be His special people. This was not out of favoritism or respect of persons. The corresponding truth to God choosing Israel is that Israel chose God. The rest of the nations, (i.e. Gentiles), rejected God. They were pagan. idolatrous, heathen, worshiping other gods. The law of Moses legally separated Israel from the Gentiles.

God's classification of people:

I Corinthians 10:32 - Jew. Gentile and the Church of God

Prior to Pentecost, in God's eyes, there were two types of people - Israel, His Beloved, and all the other nations, the Gentiles. With Pentecost comes a whole new type of people - the Church of God.

The Church: Called Out:

I Peter 2:9,10
I John 3:1
Romans 1:6
Romans 8:28-30
Acts 2: 37-39
Colossians 3:15

The Emphasis of the Mystery

The Separation of God and Man:

Romans 5:12 - sin and spiritual death

I Timothy 2: 4-6 - a mediator goes between 2 separated parties to bring them back together

Matthew 27:51 - the veil has been rent!

Acts 2:38, 39 11

Corinthians 5:17, 18

Together, Together, Together

Ephesians 3: 2-6 - heirs together, of the body together, partakers together

Ephesians 2:4-6 - made alive together, raised together, seated together with Christ

The Church is Compared to the Human Body:

Ephesians 1:22, 23 - "Church" is literal, as we are called out. "Body" is figurative, comparing the Church to the human body.

Colossians 1: 18-21 - Christ is the Head, the Prominent One

I Corinthians 12: 12- 14

The Church is Compared to Marriage:

Ephesians 5: 22-32

I Corinthians 11: 1,2

Christ is the Head of the Church as the husband is the head of the wife All Christians, regardless of backgrounds or differences are one, as a man and a woman become one flesh in marriage. This is the spiritual unity that God has made in Christ.

All Created Equal in Christ Jesus:

Acts 2:16-18

Galatians 3:26-28 - "Jew" put for Israel; "Greek" put for the Gentiles

Colossians 3: 10 -15 - "Barbarian" - derisive term for anyone who is non-Greek;

"Scythian" - wildest of the Barbarians.

There is to be no discrimination, no distinction, no separation in the Body of Christ.

We are one with God. one with Christ, one with each other.

The Building of the Church

Matthew 16: 13-20 - "I will (in the future) build my Church"

John 16: 7

Luke 24:49

Acts 2:33

1 Corinthians 3:11

Ephesians 2:-19-22

All filled with Holy Spirit

Acts 2:4

1 Corinthians 12: 7, 1, 11

All are Members in Particular of the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 - Every born-again one is needed, vital and has a particular function in the Body of Christ.

Diversities of Gifts:

1 Corinthians 12:4 - "gifts" is *charismata*.

Acts 2: 38; Romans 5:15, 17; 6:23 - the gift of holy spirit

Romans 12: 4-8 - "gifts" referring to long suits, functions within the Body.
"differing" can be rendered "excelling."

A sampling given:

"prophecy" is one of the nine manifestations

"ministering" - different ways of ministering.

"teaching" is one of the five doma ministries of Ephesians 4:11 necessary for equipping the saints

"exhortation" is one way to build the Church. Another is comfort.

"giving" - the operation of the law of giving and receiving. Something all Christians are to do, but here it is a long suit, a function. Other immutable laws represented here might include believing, stewardship, work, marriage.

"ruleth" - a function of leadership in the Body.

"Governments" 1 Corinthians 12:28

"sheweth mercy" - a quality of judgment, character and practice. Others represented could include kindness, graciousness, hospitality.

Growth and development come with believing. "Get busy" doing what God gives you to do.

Ephesians 4: 1-16

v.4-6 - one Body (not many denominations) one new-birth spirit, one hope (Christ's return), one lord Jesus Christ, one believing, one baptism, One True God (not three)

v 8 - "gifts" doma

v. 12 - for the full-equipping of the saints so that the saints can do the work of the ministry resulting in the building of the Body of Christ

v. 16 - this is achieved according the vital functioning of every part.

Colossians 1: 26-29 - Every One of Us

The Restitution of All Things

The Adversary is working to separate people from God. His Word and from each other. God is working to reconcile all things to Himself through Christ

Our Gathering Together Unto Him:

I Corinthians 15:51-55 - new bodies

Philippians 3:20, 21

I John 3:2

I Corinthians 13:10 - new minds

I Corinthians 3: 11-15 - bad works burned; good works rewarded

Ephesians 4:13

I Thessalonians 4:18 - the Church forever with the lord.

The Administration of the Fullness of Times:

Events of the next Administration can be seen and understood in light of that which is addressed to us now.

Ephesians 1:10 - gather together all things to Christ both which are in heaven and on earth.

Acts 3: 19-21 - "restitution" - a complete restoration, re-establishment.

People:

Revelation 20:4, 5 - the first resurrection is of those martyred for the witness of Christ

Revelation 21: 11 - 15 - the Great White Throne for all unbelievers of all time and all believers not a part of the Gathering Together and the First Resurrection.

Hebrew 11:35

John 5:26, 28,29

Acts 24:15

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Philippians 2: 9-11

Satan and his host:

I Corinthians 6:3 - evil angels

Revelation 20: 10 - Satan himself

Revelation 20:14 – death

The New Heavens and New Earth:

11 Peter 3:12, 13

Revelation 21: 1, 2 - the New Jerusalem

Hebrews 13: 22-24 - a "who's-who" of who will be there!

I Corinthians 15: 24-28 - Everything made right by Christ, delivered back to God!