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-THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST-

We find this mentioned in Eph. 3:4. It is associated with the dispensation of the Mystery. In fact, each is dependent on the other and one cannot be fully known apart from the other.

The beginning of the unveiling of the Mystery or secret of Christ is found in Gen. 1:1. There He is the Creator. Then just a little farther on we find man made in the image. Gen. 3:15 tells of the Seed of woman. It is not long till we see shed blood and animal skins typifying the covering for sin. Then there is a place of worship in the presence of God which is marked by the cherubim. The faces of the lion, the ox, the man, and the eagle show forth Christ as do the 4 gospels in their order.

Then there is the deliverance from Egypt closely connected with the Pass-over lamb. The tabernacle is set up in the wilderness, every item of which speaks of Christ and His work for man.

In the Psalms and Prophets we read of His glories to come and His work of redemption. It certainly was true when He said that the Scriptures testified of Him. Even in the book of Esther He stands behind the scenes and directs every move tho He is not named there outright, but in acrostic form.

The gospels take up the account of His life and ministry here on earth ending with His sufferings and death. Then as a sequence, the most wonderful and important message to the world comes forth, THE RESURRECTION. Here is finally victory over that dread enemy that came because of the fall of Adam.

During Acts, His death, resurrection and coming again are proclaimed. Even His being seated on the throne with His Father is set forth, and we might think that this is all.

But NO, this is not all! The supreme point of revelation of the dispensation of the Mystery is given to Paul to tell to all men everywhere. This same Christ is made Head of the church which is His body. This completes the Word of God concerning His Son. Col. 1:25.

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-EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT-

This is a further explanation of the first article in TFT #55. Dan.12:2 refers to Israel and a future resurrection. Some will have a reward for faithful service. Some will be held in contempt and shame by somebody. There is evidence that failure will be the lot of some.

In John 5:28, 29 we have the same picture. It is concerning Israel. Some will enjoy resurrection life to the full, but others will receive some kind of judgment.

The same things may be intimated in Acts 24:15 and 1 Cor. 3:11-15. Not all who have life and a part in resurrection will be perfect by any means. Some will receive no rewards.

The Lord explained some of this in His parables. Take the case of the servant in Matt. 25:14-30. All these men were servants. None was an enemy. The parable is of the kingdom, so the servants must be Jews. Two enter into reward, but one goes into outer darkness which is associated with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Rotherham has translated "Everlasting punishment" as "age-abiding correction." This is more in keeping with the original. The AGE is the Millennium. Now complete the picture. Those who have acted unjustly, who have lived to the flesh and for themselves, will have no part in the Land or the City during the Millennium. They will be banished. They will have to live among the nations seething with rebellion. When they see their lost opportunity, there shall be the weeping and gnashing of teeth. According to Isa. 60:1, 2, gross darkness shall cover the earth, hence the "outer darkness." At the end of the Millennium all tears will be wiped away and they will have finished the period of correction and will be restored to their people.

Those at the great white throne are believers. They also are judged according to works, but no punishment is mentioned. The Age will be past.

What about those in the fellowship of the Mystery? Only this; "They shall receive....." Col. 3:25. Beware!

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-PARADISE-

4

Paradise is a place where man and God can dwell together. It is usually thought of as a place where there are trees. The garden in Eden was a paradise. There man and God walked and talked together. It was a place of trees. Especially mentioned was the tree of life.

But this first paradise was lost through sin and disobedience. When man could no longer walk with God he was expelled from the paradise. He had to have some other occupation to keep him busy.

But after the expulsion, man longed for the lost paradise. He sighed for the tree of life. So he began to build groves and temples in them. He began to worship a living tree, the evergreen tree, as the tree of life.

There is another paradise for the future. It is the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. In it will be the tree of life. In it will also be a city, the new Jerusalem. This paradise will be the abode of all peoples who have an earthly hope. It will include those who have part in the Millennium. Spiritual Israel will get to live in the city.

The great multitudes who come up at the great white throne judgment will also have a part in paradise. If you compare Job 14:12 with Rev. 20:11 you will find the time element the same. Job hoped to see His Redeemer in paradise. The same was true of the dying malefactor spoken of by Luke. He asked for a place in the kingdom. It was refused since the doors of the kingdom had not yet been opened to Gentiles. But he was assured of paradise. He would dwell with the Lord there some day.

Those who read and believe the gospel of John receive everlasting life. This life has nothing to do with the kingdom. John wrote this gospel after the doors of the kingdom had been closed to all, Jew and Gentile alike. John did not set forth the hope of heaven. He did not preach the Mystery or have any part in it. His name will be in one of the foundations of the New Jerusalem. So those who have everlasting life hope for paradise.

-DID YOU READ CAREFULLY?-

4

Much truth is missed by careless reading. We are prone to read our own ideas right out of the Scriptures. Let us look at some examples of this.

In Luke 23 there is an account of two malefactors being led to Calvary with the Lord. One reviles, the other believes. In Matt. 27 we have an account of the Lord being placed on the cruel tree. Only Simon of Cyrene is mentioned as going along with Him. After the garments were parted and the soldiers sat down to watch Him die, THEN two thieves were brought up and they too were put on trees. Both of them reviled the Lord. If we take the trouble to use the concordance, we find that malefactors were evil-doers, but the thieves were highwaymen or robbers, probably murderers to boot. So five were executed instead of three. Did you read it that carefully?

As you have read the OT and also all of the NT except the epistles written after Acts (Eph., Phil., Col., 1st and 2nd Tim., Titus, and Philemon) did you ever find a single instance where the future hope of the believers was any more than a return to the earth some day? Man was created an earthly creature and the earth was to be his dominion. But somehow we got the idea from the heathen and the traditions of the fathers that all would go to heaven some day. Even such passages as 1st Cor. 15 and 1st Thess. 4 have been made to mean that believers would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and He would take them to heaven. But that is not the message. He is coming to earth to set up His kingdom. These rise to meet Him and then come back with Him as He keeps on His way to the earth. The word for MEET in this instance is the same as you find in Acts 28:15. It means to meet and return with.

In the 12 addresses of Paul recorded in Acts as well as the 14 epistles from his pen, you cannot find the word HELL. Yet most people would claim right off that this was a subject of Paul's teaching. Have you read it carefully? Do get you a good concordance and begin right now to make a study of words. You will learn.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- #23

1. Was the Lord to be glorified in His death or by His resurrection? 12:23
2. How does verse 24 compare with 1 Cor. 15:20, 23?
3. Does the selfish person enjoy his life? 25
4. What of the person who is unselfish in this age?
5. Does a willing servant like to be near his master?
6. What will be the reward of the willing servant? 26
7. Why was it that the Lord could not ask that this hour be avoided?
8. What was the supreme desire of the Son?
9. Under what circumstances had the Father glorified the Son as the Quickener of the dead? 11:45
10. How was the Father later to be glorified? Rom. 6:4
11. Did any beside the Lord understand the voice from heaven?
12. Why did God speak to the Son?
13. What judgment was the world soon to give forth concerning the Prince of the world, the Prince of life?
14. What will the world do to Him? 31
15. What kind of death does verse 32 indicate for the Lord?
16. What does the preaching of Christ crucified do to all men?
17. Do all respond to the drawing?
18. What argument did the people have that if He were the Messiah, He could not die?
19. What two things did He command them to do in regard to the light?
20. After this what did He do? 36
21. In spite of all the miracles, what was still the attitude of the people?
22. What prophet had foretold this reception?
23. What further thing had this prophet declared would happen because of their unbelief?
24. What had Isaiah seen?
25. Of whom did he speak?
26. Did any of the rulers or chief men believe on Him?
27. Did others know it? Why not?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; Am glad that some of you are keeping up with the studies in John. I get a little slow with the checking of papers, but eventually I get them done. If any new readers would like to join us, just send in the answers to the questions.

Here is a little acrostic of 1 Cor. 15:22 that you might like to keep.

A s in Adam all
D ie, even so in Christ shall
A ll be
M ade alive.

You can see ADAM spelled out by the first letters in the lines. The making of acrostics is very interesting.

It can also be put on a structural outline something like this;

A/ In Adam (descendents of)
B/ All (just the above)
C/ Die (Shalt surely die)
a/ In Christ (Believers)
b/ All (just the above)
c/ Alive. (resurrection)

Here is another structure from Rom. 5:3-5. This is a good study outline.

"We glory also in
TRIBULATIONS; knowing that
TRIBULATION worketh
PATIENCE; and
PATIENCE (worketh)
EXPERIENCE; and
EXPERIENCE (worketh)
HOPE; and
HOPE maketh not ashamed."

Here is one from my notebook on Isa. 6:10. Look it up and follow thru.

A/ Heart (fat)
B/ Ears (heavy)
C/ EYES (shut)
c/ EYES (see)
b/ Ears (hear)
a/ Heart (understand)

Now for one more. You will find it in Gal. 5:17. It has a lesson, too.

A/ The FLESH lusteth
B/ against the SPIRIT
b/ and the SPIRIT
a/ against the FLESH.

Thanks for your letters. Some day I will get them all answered. Keep writing.
Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

MINISTRY: Radio broadcast each Tue. at 7 P M followed by the fellowship meeting at the WRSW studios at 7:45. The broadcast is on both AM and FM. The monthly paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY, is free. Have it sent to your friends. But be sure to give complete address. Many have been returned to us because the RFD number was lacking or the address was in some way incomplete.

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Smith of Joliet, Ill. stopped with us a little while Mar. 31st.

TAPE RECORDINGS: Another set will be made as soon as we can get to it. If you wish recordings, specify if 7.5 or the 3.75 ips. speed. No charge for this.

BOOKS: LIFE THRU HIS NAME has not arrived yet. We wait!

BACK NUMBERS of TFT can be had back to #39. Ask for what you need.

ADDRESSOGRAPH: Yes, we bought one. It is an electric model. May have it in use by next month some time. We Saved money by getting a factory rebuilt one instead of new. It will do our work just as well. So now send in all the addresses of folks who might be interested and we will send them the paper.

A RECORD: 2,000 of this issue are being printed. We have been printing about 1,600 each month, but our family is increasing thanks to some of our good missionaries who send in names.

SPRING: Yes, it is here. So is more work. Was in Auburn recently getting a new gear put in the Rototiller so we can get the garden going. The cows are nipping every vestige of green grass they can find. Can imagine they are tired of old dry hay all winter.

DANGER: We are becoming more and more aware of the fact that many who know of the dispensational line of Acts 28:28 do not know the Mystery. We who teach must keep this in mind. The knowledge of the Mystery includes the Knowledge of Christ. Love will be manifested to the brethren. There will be a zeal to tell the good news to others. Mere head knowledge tends to puff up, loss of first love, and no interest in the spread of the good news. Our goal is to exalt Christ and magnify His Name.

WRITE: I have written about 550 letters since last June 1st. Keep writing.
Oscar M. Baker. Tel. Atwood 2684.

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