

## Understanding Paul's Revelation of the Gospel or the Mystery

There have been many, who have interpreted the Scriptures incorrectly, by believing that Paul had special revelation concerning the Church or the Church Age that wasn't known by others. Usually, it is a misunderstanding concerning the word "mystery" that Paul frequently makes reference to and that he used terms such as "my" gospel. (Rom. 2:16) So we will look at what Paul meant when he used the terminologies "mystery" and "my" gospel.

Many others believe that while Jesus was fulfilling His earthly ministry, that He was not able to reveal the truths concerning the Church because He had not yet gone to the cross and resurrected from the dead. They will often state that Jesus was born under the law and had to keep the law in order to earn His righteousness. Gal. 4:4-5. They will state that since we are not under that law, Jesus' life and teachings aren't our example but only Paul's life and teachings.

They may use the example of Jesus stating that if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. They will then claim that Jesus was the most aggressive law preacher in history. But they conveniently forget the story of the woman caught in adultery and Jesus not condemning her. If you read the story in John 8:1-12, you will see that the Pharisees brought the women caught in adultery to test Him to try and get Him to "obey" the law's demand of stoning the woman. This was because everyone was excited about Jesus' message of God's love and redemption and the Pharisees, who were zealous for the law, hated Jesus and His message. They were seeing if Jesus would compromise the Gospel of Grace and have her stoned. Well, we all know how Jesus handled that one.

Getting back to Jesus being under the law and needing to keep it perfectly in order to become righteous and accepted in God's eyes; there is no Scripture in the bible that states that Jesus was not righteous, but that after keeping the law perfectly, He then became righteous. This is a misunderstanding concerning the law. The law did not and could not make someone righteous. Gal. 3:21; Heb. 7:19. The law only revealed what was sinful and what was righteousness; it never produced righteousness but it did bring out the sin that was already in our heart because we were born in sin. Rom. 5:12; 7:7-8,13; 1 Cor. 15:56. The law isn't for someone who is righteous, but someone who is sinful. 1 Tim. 1:8-11. Jesus wasn't sinful in any capacity. 1 Jn. 3:5.

Jesus was God in the flesh and didn't need to become perfect, He born perfect. He was the perfect, sinless, spotless, Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world. John 1:29. We'll look more closely at the person of Jesus next week.

First, let's look at a few of the references to what Jesus preached.

Mark 1:14-15 - Jesus came preaching the kingdom of heaven or God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel.

Joh 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.  
John 14:26; 15:26-27

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What did Paul preach?

Gal. 1:11-12

Eph. 3:1-11

By mystery, Paul is not referring to something was entirely unknown, but something that was not widely known because it was not yet made available.

The mystery or the revelation Paul received wasn't something that was new and not mentioned in the Scriptures prior to Paul. What Paul means is that he did not receive his revelation that came from the Scriptures by listening to Peter, James or John. Paul states that he received his revelation of what the Scriptures teach directly from the Holy Spirit when he had a revelation of who Jesus is on the Damascus road in Acts 9.

Paul didn't have the attitude that he had something unique that the other apostles didn't have. Gal. 2:1-2,6-9 – Paul cleared the revelation of the Scriptures with Peter, James and John to see if it was the same as what they were preaching and the same that they received from Jesus. It appears that Paul was willing to change his message to agree with what Peter, James and John were preaching if needed, but those apostles in Jerusalem gave witness that it was the same.

Let's look at what Paul stated concerning his gospel. Rom. 1:1-5; Rom. 16:25-26; Lk. 24:47

Look at what Paul states. He says, my gospel and also what Jesus, Himself taught.

Jesus had to open the understanding of the other Apostles as well as Paul. Luke 24:25-27; 24:44-45.

Heb 2:3 – Jesus preached salvation and that message was delivered to us by those who heard Him.

1 Timothy 6:3-4