

Paul's Unique Message

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"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began." ~ Romans 16:25

*A*ccording to this verse, the revelation committed to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, can be divided into two basic areas. The first of these areas he calls "my gospel."

*"... according to **my** gospel ..."*

This special *gospel* committed *specifically* and *singularly* to Paul (thus, "my gospel") stands in contrast to the *law*. It is this good news that God will one day gloriously use as the standard to judge the world (Romans 2:16). This gospel, also known as "*gospel of the grace of God*" (Acts 20:24), is information concerning the all-encompassing accomplishments of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"...Christ died **for** our sins..."*

This good news can be clearly seen in the first recorded message of Paul in the book of Acts:

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you for the forgiveness of sins: And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39).

Note that this *gospel* is contrasted with the *law* of Moses.

Paul calls the second part of his message the “*revelation of the mystery*.”

“... and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery ...”

This special *revelation* concerning Jesus Christ was also committed *specifically* and *singularly* to Paul and stands in contrast to *prophecy*. God’s prophetic purpose has to do with the reestablishment of His domain on the *earth* through the instrumentality of the nation Israel. It also has to do with the benefits that Israel receives in conjunction with this purpose.

The earth is currently under rebellion and hostile domain: the reign of the Gentiles (*i.e.*, Nations)!

The *prophetic* purpose has been:

“Spoken ... since the world began” (Acts 3:21).

God’s *mystery* purpose, never before revealed until Paul, has to do with the reestablishment of His dominion in the *heavenly places* through the instrumentality of the Church, the Body of Christ. It also has to do with the benefits that the Body of Christ receives in conjunction with this purpose.

The *heavenly places*,¹ as well as the earthly places, are currently in rebellion and under hostile domain: *the principalities, powers, and might*s.² One day God will overthrow the rebellion of the earth through the instrumentality of Israel.³ He will also overthrow the rebellion of the heavens through the instrumentality of the Church, which is His Body.

On the other hand, the *mystery* purpose has been:

“... Kept secret since the world began ...” (Romans 16:25).

Thus, we see these two purposes *must* stand in contrast to each other. One has been “*spoken since the world began*,” while the other has been “*kept secret since the world began*.” Things that are different are not the same!

“*My gospel*” and “*the revelation of the mystery*,” the two basic features of Paul’s special revelation and message are seen in I Timothy 2:4:

“Who will have all men to be saved [**my gospel**], and to come unto the knowledge of

1. These *heavenly places* are literal geographical locations in the heavenly sphere. There are *stories* and *troops* (Amos 9:6) located in the heavens that must be brought into harmony with God’s eternal purpose: that His Son be exalted and glorified in the earth *and the heaven*!
2. Ephesians 3:10; 6:12; Colossians 1:16; 2:15
3. We mention here God’s Israel. The “Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16) is different from the current state known as “Israel,” the latter being the Israel of the United Nations.

the truth [revelation of the mystery].”

Paul’s “my gospel” and “the revelation of the mystery” are found *exclusively* in His epistles: Romans through Philemon. Because these epistles reveal God’s present purpose of Grace, this is a message that will provide stability to the life of the believer.

“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to ...” (Romans 16:25).

Just how does Paul reveal that God will establish the believer? He says, “according to ...” According refers to the standard by which the believer will be established! What does Paul go on to say that standard is?

“... according to [1] **my gospel**, and [2] **the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began**” (Romans 16:25).

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