

Colossians

The Mystery Revealed

Colossians 2

The Mystery Revealed

Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV) ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Colossians

Colossians 2:2

² My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,
³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The Mystery Revealed

Colossians 1:26 (NIV) ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations,

1 Corinthians 2:8 (NIV) ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Colossians

I. What is the Mystery?

Luke 18:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

The Mystery Revealed

Colossians

I. What is the Mystery?

Is God real?

Who is God?

What is God like?

How did we get here?

What is my purpose in life?

Is there life after death?

What do I do about the guilt I feel?

How do I change what I don't like
about myself?

Is there hope for me?

How do I find peace?

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

Prophecies

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NIV) ¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

Virgin Birth

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

Miracles

Acts 2:22 (NIV) ²² "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Cross

¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Resurrection

¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

Pentecost

Hebrews 2:3b-4 (NIV) This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Eyewitnesses

Acts 10:37-43 (NIV) ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--
³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree,

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Eyewitnesses

⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Eyewitnesses

Colossians 1:25-27 (NIV) ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Church

Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV) ² My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

II. How is the Mystery revealed?

The Church

Ephesians 3:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

III. How does the Revelation affect Me?

The Law

Colossians 2:13-15

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

III. How does the Revelation affect Me?

The Law

Colossians 2:17,23

¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

III. How does the Revelation affect Me?

Sinful Nature

Colossians 2:10-11

¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,

III. How does the Revelation affect Me?

Death

Colossians 2:12

¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

III. How does the Revelation affect Me?

This World

Colossians 2:4-8

⁴ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

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