

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS & THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

There are 14 Mysteries in the Bible, 7 of which are written to the nation of Israel (see [Matthew Chapter 13](#)), the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven; and **7 mysteries of the Kingdom of God are written for the Church**. This document contains information on two of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God (for the church), the **Mystery of Godliness** and the **Mystery of Christ in You, the Hope of Glory**.

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In 1Corinthians Chapter 4, Paul says: 1Corinthians 4:1-2 - *"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."* We are called to be **faithful stewards** of the mysteries of God; He has entrusted them with us. God owns everything. **Psalms 24:1** says: *"(A Psalm of David.) The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* Everything belongs to God and we're simply in the management business of anything we have. We are to take care of the mysteries of God for our generation to make sure that the next generation of believers has an understanding of these mysteries.

Luke 16:1-2 - *"And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. ² And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward."* **Give an account of thy stewardship...** 'Is there going to be a test? Yes, at the Judgment Seat of Christ!' **We will give an account of our stewardship to God for the 7 mysteries to the Church.** He'll say, 'What did you do with them? How did you take care of them? Did you pass them on to the next generation?' Will this be the generation in which the mysteries that we've been entrusted with die out and the next generation has absolutely no idea what they are? We're called to be faithful stewards. **Proverbs 20:6** says, *"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"* We can deceive ourselves into thinking that we're doing right by these mysteries but it's really, really important.

The Mystery of Godliness

1Timothy 3:16 - *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."* **The mystery of godliness is that God became flesh.** **John 1:1** says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* **John 1:14** says, *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

When I say "**Word**" ... that thing that just went out into space ... **became flesh**. That "thing" that is invisible ... that thing that can't be touched ... that thing that can't be seen ... that thing that is pure energy but nothing physical ... **became flesh! That's a mystery** how God became flesh in the form of Jesus Christ. And yet, not everybody believes it. There's a spirit in this age ... and it's been ever since Christ was here ... *there's a spirit that Jesus Christ was not God ... and that's called the spirit of the antichrist.* **1John 4:1-3** says, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" ² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:* ³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*" In the world is a spirit of the antichrist. There's a spirit that says Jesus Christ was just a prophet; Jesus Christ was just a good man; Jesus Christ was just a great teacher, Jesus Christ was a healer. Jesus Christ is *just* the Son of God, a separate being than Almighty God. **No! Jesus Christ is, was and always will be God!**

Now, what is it that we're supposed to do with that? We believe that ... at least I hope you do! ... but what are we supposed to do with that knowledge? There are several things:

What about this mystery are we to be stewards of?

1. **We are to protect the deity of Christ ... that Jesus Christ is God.** Some have only heard His name used when people swear, but Jesus is real! He IS God, and we have got to protect the deity of Jesus Christ! Some will say that Jesus Christ never claimed to be God but look at **John 14:8-9** - "⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.* ⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father?*" Jesus Christ declared Himself to be One with God the Father. **1John 5:7** says, "*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*" That's the only verse in your Bible that tells you there is a trinity ... three Gods, one being. Now there are a lot of illusions to it, there are a lot of indications of it, but that is the clearest verse in the Bible. Some "bible" versions take that verse out ... that's one of the many verses "bible" versions yank entirely out because people have a problem with Jesus Christ being God. *We need to protect the deity of Christ!*
2. **We need to maintain the exclusivity of Christ. There is no other God that has become flesh other than Jesus Christ.** **John 14:6** says, "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" Turn in your Bibles to **Acts Chapter 4**. Jesus Christ is exclusively God. There is no other God that has ever come to this earth and manifest Himself to man. **Acts 4:10-12** says, "*Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of*

Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [even] by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹ *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.* ¹² *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Now, we must be **saved**, but there is only one way to salvation and that is Jesus Christ. You cannot call on Buddha or Mohammed or Joseph Smith and get saved! *You can only get saved through Jesus Christ! He is the One and Only way to heaven!* **Stand your ground! Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven!** People will say, *'I think Buddha is the way God reached the oriental world'* and that makes sense ... but that's not how He did it. They'll say, *'Well I think that God reached the Arab world through Mohammed.'* That makes sense, but that's not how God did it. *Why?* If that was true ... this is important ... the way to get to heaven through the Islamic faith, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, the way to get to heaven through any of these other religions is by **works**. NO! **We get to heaven by faith and God's grace, NOT** by works. *The two cannot be compatible!* It is because of JESUS' "work" on the Cross that we are saved! We must maintain the exclusivity of Christ.

3. **We need to proclaim the necessity of Christ.** John 3:3 says, *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* A man who is not born again (saved) will not even get a glimpse of the kingdom of God! That's harsh! We have loved ones who were kind, gentle, good ... but never born again and we want to say, *'Well, if God is a just God, He'll weigh their merits and even though they weren't born again, God will let them in heaven because they were good people.'* **No, He won't!** Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God! How does a man get born again? **John 1:12-13** - *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* It breaks my heart ... I have literally seen people not get saved because they couldn't stand the thought that someone that they loved never was born again. **Verse 12** - to them that believe on Whose name? HIS name! For there is no other name ... you might want to write in your Bible right there -- **Acts 4:10-12** -- there is no other name given under heaven by which a man must be saved!

Preachers get on CNN and someone asks them: *"Are you saying that Jewish people don't go to heaven?"* And that person will smile and say, *'Well, I believe God is a just God.'* They just had a chance in front of a million people to tell the truth ... that **there's only one way to heaven and that's through Jesus Christ** ... and chickened out! And the next generation of people coming up, if we're soft on this, they're going to be *softer*. It's our job to maintain the truth that has been entrusted to us. You can't allow yourself to believe that there's any other way to heaven other than Jesus Christ. Because God

became flesh ... He became like man ... He died in our place ... because we, as men, are sinners ... He lived a perfect life and in living that perfect life, He offered up untainted blood to God the Father for our sins. *For where there is no shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.* Jesus Christ shed His blood ... He's the only person on the face of the planet that has died for the sins of others. There have been martyrs who died for their faith ... there have been people who have died for what they believed in ... but there's only one person on the face of the planet that has ever died for the sins of someone else. *And not only did He die, but He was buried and He arose again!* At Buddha's resting place, at Mohammed's resting place, at Joseph Smith's resting place ... you're not going to find Jesus Christ anywhere! ***Nobody lived like Him, nobody died like Him and nobody ever got up like Him! He IS God, and God alone!***

4. Because God became like man, when you and I get saved, we need to become like God. Because Jesus Christ became man, you and I have to conform ourselves to the image of God. **Romans 8:29** - *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* **2Peter 1:5** - *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;"* **Godliness** ... because Jesus Christ became like us, we're called to become like Him. So that's what we're supposed to do with the mystery of Godliness. That is counter-cultural today, even within Christianity people don't agree on this, but **you and I have been called to protect this truth.**

The Mystery of Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

Paul writes in **Colossians 1:25-27**: *"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ²⁶ [Even] the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ²⁷ To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"*

For every believer in Jesus Christ, God lives in Him. John 14:16-18 - *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."* **Verse 17** - shall be **where? IN YOU.** When you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, the Holy Spirit of God comes and resides in you. **1Corinthians 6:19** - *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

The Psalmist David describes and says the universe cannot contain God: **1Kings 8:27** - *"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"* We can see approximately 13.8 billion light years; light traveling at 127,000 miles a second, it takes 13.8 billion years for light to reach what we call the cosmic curtain, which is a point at which we believe our timeframe here in the universe began, and we can't see past that cosmic curtain ... but 13.8 BILLION light years stretching across ... and the Bible says that's not big enough to hold God! The universe is tiny compared to God and yet, He lives in me! **Now that's a mystery!** When you're saved, you know He's there! Something as big as God moves into you and you're telling me you don't know if He's there? *'Well, I don't know if I've got God in my heart or not!'* **If God moves in, you know it! There's something different!** You shouldn't have to wonder whether you're saved or not ... God moved in! His Spirit bears witness with your spirit. It's a mystery how God lives inside of us. That's how we got our name ... Christian ... *'little Christ'*.

What about this mystery are we to be stewards of? Two things in particular:

1. **Eternal Security.** If it were up to us to keep our salvation, it would be long gone! *'Once saved, always saved'* because **it's God that saved me** ... **I didn't do anything to get saved, so I can't do anything to get unsaved.** Pretty simple. Not only that, when God moved into me, He took and **He sealed my soul.** The mystery of Christ in us ... not only is the fact that the Almighty God of the universe lives in there, but what He has done *while* He's in there! **Ephesians 1:12-13** says, *"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. ¹³ In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"* That word "seal" has two different kinds of connotations. Number one, back in the day in this particular area around Ephesus, there was a lot of trading of logs, of lumber. What they would do is cut the trees down and transport them into the Mediterranean Sea and then they would put a seal on those logs so everybody knew who owned those logs. That seal was a representative of *they had bought that* ... it was theirs. **There's a seal on you and I that identifies us as God's.** The second way we use the word "seal" as is in *a protective thing*. When God came into me, He took my soul and He sealed it with His Holy Spirit. When He sealed my soul, my flesh still sins. Is there anybody whose flesh still does not sin? No, but our eternity is not affected by it. Because when my flesh sins, I'll suffer consequences in this lifetime for my sin ... I'll suffer *consequences* for my sin, **but my soul will never pay the price for my sin because it's been paid by Jesus Christ.** He says the same thing in **Ephesians 4:30** - *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* So the first thing that we need to understand about this mystery is that it provides us our eternal security.

2. The second thing about this mystery that's important is the power it provides us in our everyday life. **Ephesians 3:19-20** says, *"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," **Do you know the God that created the universe is the same God that lives inside of you?** The same God! Did He discount His power somehow? There's a power that's in all of us! A power that's available to all of us ... a power to see things done that are exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think! And here's where our generation is messing up: the whole idea of eternal security ... being able to lose your salvation, that's been around forever ... but I'm going to tell you ***what's really wrong in our generation is too many people doing things in the power of their flesh and not in the power of God.*** Why? Most preachers don't have a clue how to operate in the power of God. Everything's manipulated ... everything is programmed ... everything is planned ... everything is intricately put together so that it'll produce "this" result ... and you get man-made results! The next generation is not seeing what **God** can do, the next generation is seeing what **man** can do. It's a shame! It's an absolute shame that our kids aren't seeing what God can do! ***Teach your kids to pray and don't solve your children's problems for them! Let God intervene! When they see God work, they will never be the same!*** Don't come in and bail them out or give them advice. Don't 'boom-boom-done ... fixed ... don't have to worry about that.' They need to see God! There's a power that's in us that can do exceeding abundantly above all that we think or ask ... that's a life-changing moment when you experience that power ... and the next generation needs to see that power flowing through you. There's a generation that has accomplished ... basically from 1946-47, all the way through the 90s, amazing things! This generation coming up is looking at what we did and what we have, and they don't have any hope. ***Do you want to know why that next generation has lost hope? Because they put their faith in what man can do and not what God can do.*** But they can be everything that their Heavenly Father is because they've got that power!
- Galatians 5:16** - *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* The power of God to do exceeding abundantly; the power of God to keep us from walking in the flesh. Fulfill the lust of the flesh ... what has that next generation seen us do? **Are they seeing us follow after the Spirit of God or are they seeing us follow after the flesh?** **1Thessalonians 5:19** says, *"Quench not the Spirit."* How is the Spirit quenched? Why is it there's a lack of power in the lives of Christians today? Look at **1Thessalonians 5:16-20**: *"Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. ¹⁹ Quench not the Spirit. ²⁰ Despise not prophesyings."* Do you know what 'quench not the Spirit' is? It's a sandwich between praise and prayer and the Word of God. How much do our kids hear us praising God? How much do our kids hear us thanking God? It says *'In every thing, give thanks'*. Do you know what our kids hear us doing? Complaining! And complaining quenches the Spirit of

God. Complaining is the opposite of rejoicing; complaining is the opposite of being thankful. What robs us of the power of God is a negative attitude in life. **Ephesians 4:30** says, *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* What does that verse follow? **Verse 29** says, *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

The second mystery is that God resides in us, which means I am saved forever and I have a power that's available to me that is unbelievable!

If you would like information on the other Mysteries to the church contained in the Bible, please email us at:

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The preceding information was taken from a 2019 sermon by Pete Nugent of Grace Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Feel free to share with anyone you are led by the Spirit to do so. Any errors or discrepancies contained in this document, although not intended, are those of the transcriber.