

REVIVAL NEWS
From Revival Ministries Australia
P.O. Box 2718 BC TOOWOOMBA Q4350 Australia
Phone: 61-7-46130633; e-mail: rma@revivalministries.org.au
Website: www.revivalministries.org.au

Declaring the whole counsel of God Bulletin – Article 5 – April 29, 2024

MY GOSPEL – PART 2

Nicholas Jackson

[This is a continuation of the teaching from Romans 16:25-26. Part 1 was sent out in March 2024 and focused on the point in Romans 16:25 - “According to my gospel”. This bulletin encompasses the points of the verse that we are established, “According to the preaching of Jesus Christ and the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”]

ACCORDING TO THE “PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST” – Romans 16:25b

Preaching a Person

There are not many today who preach Jesus as the Christ. Much of the church worldwide has very limited understanding of who Jesus is and what it means to call Him **the Christ**. Christian bookstores are full of teaching on principles “for successful living” and motivational messages that are not what Jesus and the apostles taught. We are not to preach good self-centred messages. We do not preach a religion or a church. We are to preach a person! We preach Jesus the Christ!

The revelation of Christ

When Jesus asked His disciples who they said He was, Peter declared, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God*” (Matt.16:16). Jesus’ response was, “*...upon this Rock [the revelation of who He is], I will build My church*” (Matt.16:18). The first time that Jesus mentioned the “church” was in response to the revelation of who He was! The church is built on the revelation of Jesus the Christ! When we preach Him, the church is built!

The Word manifests through preaching

We need to understand and preach the revelation that **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!** Paul said to Titus that the hope of eternal life and the fulfillment of God’s promises are “*manifested in due time...through preaching*” (Tit.1:3). **The Word manifests through preaching!** It is as we preach Jesus the Christ that He

manifests, He appears! The Word manifests, becomes real in our experience, only if it is preached! Somebody needs to tell somebody! It is the Word which has power to demonstrate the reality of God! God has committed this gospel to the ***“foolishness of preaching to save those who believe”*** 1 Corinthians 1:21.

Preach the Word

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory...” (John1:1, 14) God again wants the Word to become flesh, to manifest in human beings! As the Word manifests through preaching, the world will see **His glory!** As we preach the Word of Jesus the Christ, the hope of eternal life manifests and we are established in His glory! Paul charged Timothy before the Lord Jesus Christ to ***“Preach the Word!”*** (2Tim.4:2).

Preach Him

Paul told the Galatians that ***“it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles”*** Galatians 1:15-16. We preach the One who has been revealed in us. We preach the One we know by experience. We preach Him to nations (Gentiles)! ***“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”*** Colossians 1:28. We become mature and complete through the preaching of Messiah. The saints will only come to maturity if there is the preaching of Jesus Christ!

What did the apostles preach?

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ” Acts 5:42. We cannot exhaust the teaching and preaching of Jesus the Christ. The apostles did not come up with a new message. Every day they were making Him known in all His fullness. Christ is the ***“fullness of the Godhead dwelling bodily”*** Colossians 2:9. The apostle Paul said that he had received grace to ***“preach the unsearchable riches of Christ among the Gentiles (nations)”*** Ephesians 3:8. The riches of Christ are unsearchable! Apostle John wrote his gospel for the purpose that we ***“may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we may have life in His name”*** John 20:31. Life comes through the preaching of Jesus Christ!

The Christ is the King

What does it mean to preach Jesus **Christ**? The word **Christ** is the translation of the **Messiah (Jn.1:41)**. It means the **Anointed One** and particularly the **Anointed King!** When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, the accusation against Jesus was that He said, ***“He Himself is Christ, a King”*** Luke 23:2. **The Christ is the King!** Jesus Christ is **Jesus the Anointed King!** The apostle Paul said this is the only foundation, ***“for no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which***

is Jesus Christ (the Anointed King)” 1 Corinthians 3:11. We preach Jesus the King! We preach Him as the “ruler over the kings of the earth” Revelation 1:5. The apostles got in trouble for “turning the world upside down...saying there is another King – Jesus” Acts 17:6-7. It is time to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, the King!

Making known that Jesus is the Christ

The apostle Paul went to great lengths *“explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ’” Acts 17:3.* Philip, heard the Ethiopian man reading from **Isaiah 53** about the suffering of Christ, and *“beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him” Acts 8:35.* Apollos was able to *“show from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ” Acts 18:28.* Apostle Paul *“determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”* and the word came with *“a demonstration of the Spirit and with power” 1 Corinthians 2:2,4.* The preaching of Jesus the Christ is powerful and effective. The Holy Spirit is with us and will demonstrate His power!

Preaching Jesus Christ reveals the glory

Paul the apostle made it clear, *“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” 2 Corinthians 4:5a.* When we do this Paul says God shines into our *“hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” 2 Corinthians 4:6.* Through the preaching of Jesus Christ, hearts of men, women and children are filled with light – the light of revelation. The *face* of Jesus Christ is revealed and people come to know the glory and essence of God through Him. Through the preaching of Jesus Christ, Paul is saying that **Habakkuk 2:14** comes to fulfilment, *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea”.* This glory is made visible when the *face of Jesus Christ* is revealed through preaching!

Exalt Jesus the Messiah

Let us return to the true apostolic preaching and revelation of Jesus the Christ! Preach Him. Declare that *“there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...for which I was appointed a preacher...” 1 Timothy 2:5,7.* He is the One who is highly exalted and has been *“given the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” Philippians 2:9-10.* Jesus the Messiah is *“the fullness of the Godhead dwelling bodily” Colossians 2:9.* He is the One who said, *“before Abraham was, I AM” John 8:58.* We are to *preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all to see who He truly is! (Eph.3:8-9).*

**Do you preach Jesus the Christ?
Stay on target and preach Jesus Christ!**

ACCORDING TO “THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY” - Romans 16:25c

Apostles and prophets

God establishes us according to *“the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began, but now made manifest.”* Something that today’s church in general has lacked is *“revelation of the mystery”*. The *mystery “in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”* Ephesians 3:5. We are in a season of history where the reality of the ministries of apostles and prophets is being restored to the church so that we can again partake of the *“fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ”* Ephesians 3:9. What was hidden is now being made known!

The foundational mystery

The foundational mystery to be made known, from which all other mysteries proceed forth, is that *“without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory”* 1 Timothy 3:16. This is an awesome mystery to be made known and is *without controversy!* Jesus is *God manifested in the flesh!* The God who created the world, appeared in the flesh. He is *“Immanuel, which is translated, “God with us”* Matthew 1:23. *“Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God...being found in appearance as a man”* Philippians 2:6,8a. Jesus has eternally existed *“in the form of God”!* He came into the world and was *“found in appearance as a man”!* What a mystery! This revelation, that Jesus was *God manifested in the flesh*, is what makes the church *“the pillar and ground of the truth”* (1Tim.3:15). The church is the custodian of this mystery!

A New Creation

Jesus, by nature being God, is able to bring forth a whole new creation. Paul said that he had received a *“dispensation of the grace of God...how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already...)”* Ephesians 3:2-3. Paul, as an apostle, had grace to reveal the mystery to the church. A big aspect of the mystery that Paul had written about was through the Cross Christ is able to *“create in Himself one new man from the two (Jew and Gentile), making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one Body”* Ephesians 2:15-16. Now, instead of being divided by race, ethnicity and nationality, *“the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel”* Ephesians 3:6. The people of God are not determined by natural lineage but are *in Christ!* There is a new creation! The

Body of Christ is this new creation. There is *one new (corporate) man* in Christ, for *“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”* 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Christ in you!

In **Romans 11:25** Paul has referred to the mystery of the Gentiles now being partakers of the *“root and fatness”*(v.17) of the promises made to natural Israel. It does not matter where you come from, the mystery is now being revealed to the saints as God has *“willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles (nations): which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”* Colossians 1:27. There is a people called out from every tribe, tongue and nation – and Christ will be manifest and revealed in them! This is the true test – is Christ in you? *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith...Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?”* 2 Corinthians 13:5. This is the revelation of the mystery! *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation”* Galatians 6:15. It is not religion, traditions or philosophies – but the reality of *Christ in you!*

A Perfect Man

Part of the mystery is that through Jesus dying, rising and ascending to heaven, He has given five ministry gifts to the Body (**Eph.4:7-11**). These gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are given to prepare the Body, the church, *“till we all come to the unity of the faith, to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* Ephesians 4:13. The mystery is that the church is *“His Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* Ephesians 1:23. Jesus is bringing His Body to perfection, which means maturity and completeness. We are coming to the *measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!* May we be given the *“Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”* (Eph.1:17) to fully appreciate and apprehend these mysteries!

The fellowship of the mystery

The *“preaching of the unsearchable riches of Christ”* is for the purpose *“to make all to see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ”* Ephesians 3:8-9. The mystery is that Jesus Christ was always and still is the focal point of all creation. This was previously hidden but *“has now been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ”* 2 Timothy 1:10. God *“created all things through Jesus Christ”!* All things were created by Him, through Him and for Him (Col.1:16). When the mystery of Christ is made known by revelation through *“His holy apostles and prophets”* (Eph.3:5) then we come into a deep *“fellowship of the mystery”*. We fellowship in the mystery of who Christ is, not in man-made, carnal, denominational groups, but in Christ Himself. In Christ is *“all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* (Col.2:9) and in Him we see and know the Father and are placed into sonship (**Jn14:7-9, Eph.1:5**). This is the deep

fellowship we have in this mystery, that we all partake of the fullness of Christ together, having our fellowship completely in Him!

Christ, the dwelling place of God

The mystery is also described by God *“gathering together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and on earth – in Him”* (Eph.1:10). Heaven and earth came together in Jesus the Christ; God became a man! Jesus shared this mystery when He told Nicodemus, *“No-one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven”* John 3:13. Jesus, as the Son of Man, was on earth and in heaven at the same time! How is that possible? Because He is God! God, who is Spirit (Jn.4:24) manifested in a Body! Jesus said that His body was the temple of God, the dwelling place of God (Jn.2:19-21). *“The Word became flesh and dwelt [literally ‘tabernacled’] among us”* John 1:14. God tabernacled in a body – the body of the Christ! When God *“came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a Body you have prepared for Me”* Hebrews 10:5. God had a Body prepared for Him – which was Christ Jesus. What is the Body being prepared today?

God’s Tabernacle is with men

God dwelt bodily in Christ (Col.2:9). God still dwells in Christ and the mystery being revealed is that *“the body is one and has many members...so also is Christ”* 1 Corinthians 12:12. Christ is a many membered Body! We are members of Christ having been *“baptised into one Body”* (1 Cor.12:13). The Body is also described as a house. This house is built *“on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* Ephesians 2:19-22. We are the dwelling place of God. God dwells in a house. God dwells in a Body. It is being built in the earth! Heaven and earth come together in Christ, in His Body! The voice from heaven proclaims, *“Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them”* Revelation 21:3. What a mystery!

The Great Mystery

The Body of Christ, the church, is not an institution, but a living reality, a people whom Christ is *“sanctifying and cleansing with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church”* Ephesians 5:26-27. Jesus is preparing us corporately to be His Bride, a wife, for Himself. The mystery being revealed now is that marriage as God intended was always pointing to something greater than Adam and Eve, man and woman. God said that a *“man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* Ephesians 5:31. Paul said that *“This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church”* Ephesians 5:32. We, as the church, are *“members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones”* Ephesians 5:30.

This is God's eternal purpose. The apostle John also saw the Bride as a city, the New Jerusalem "*coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*" Revelation 21:2. This is the people, the city, the church that God will tabernacle in (Rev.21:3).

"It has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven...For whoever has, to him more will be given" Matthew 13:11-12
Let us ask for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in these days so that we can know and understand the mysteries of the kingdom.

We are established by God "***according to the revelation of the mystery, kept secret since the world began, but now made manifest!***"

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