

## D. Our Mystery Stewardship.

**Question:** Who controls the dissemination and understanding of mysteries and what passage would you choose to illustrate this?

**Question:** What happens when we refuse to obey the light God has given us?

### Question for discussion:

On a scale of 1 to 10 how well does the average believer understand the aforementioned mysteries?

Now?                      Ten Years Ago?                      Fifty Years Ago?

How many of these mysteries do you and I understand enough to teach to others?

### 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

*Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

### 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

*Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*



## Stash It or Trash it!

*A disposable mini-guide to keep us on task for today's study.*

*Jim Steel*

*StandingTrue.com*

## IT'S NO MYSTERY!

**“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles...” Col. 1:27**

**Our Lesson Goal:** Our goal is to focus on the *preeminent Christ* in Colossians, by providing some background for Colossians 1:27 on the broad biblical theme of *mysteries*.

**Our Lesson Outline:** A. Satan's Mystery of Iniquity, B. The Gnostic Mystery Religion, C. The True Mysteries of Christ D. Our Mystery Stewardship

**A. Satan's Mystery of Iniquity. 1.)** It is *ecumenical* at its basis. It seeks to reunite heaven and earth through offering a path to progress or ascend, higher knowledge (mysteries), and various counterfeit religious & philosophical venues ultimately expressed in mystery Babylon. This system: **2.)** is patently false, incohesive and self-contradictory; **3.)** is exponentially progressive (2 Thess. 2:7) ; **4.)** is lust driven (2 Peter 2:18); and, **5.)** is personality driven rather than truth driven (just to name a few key traits). Jude 1:16;

**B. The Gnostic Mystery Religion. 1.)** Gnosticism was not officially so named in Paul's time, but its *key traits* were dominant in the culture. **2.)** Gnosticism grouped all things, spiritual and material, inside a large circle called the *pleroma* or fullness. (This belongs to Christ - Colossians 1:16-19). **3.)** It believed this *pleroma* was self-animated and expressed itself through its “logos” - word, or emanations. (Thus, again, robbing Christ. John 1:1). **4.)** It was unique in its explanation of evil, not sin, which it associated with matter. **5.)** It offered a path for returning to the light after the accidental separation of the kingdoms of light and darkness. (Christ is the light of the world, and He alone translates us into the kingdom of light. Col. 1:13). **6.)** This tension between light and darkness (dualism) produced an echelon of beings in various stages of progression (Angels being higher), Col. 2:18,19. **7.)** We supposedly move from darkness into light through the help of mediums and methods. *Gnosticism ticks all the boxes as an expression of mystery Babylon.*

## C. The True Mysteries of Christ.

### PSST! THESE ARE SECRETS YOU CAN SHARE :)

#### The Old Testament

If we were to single out one Old Testament book which speaks most to the *subject* of mysteries, this Bible teacher believes it would be the book of Daniel. We see the symmetry in this when we realize that the book is written in the context of Babylon, the mother of all counterfeit mysteries! However...

#### The New Testament

...the fact is, the *word* mystery is proprietary to the New Testament with some 27 occurrences. Most of these references point to the plan and program of God as *unveiled* in the Person and work of Messiah. These secrets were kept from both men and angels. (1 Peter 1:10).

#### Mystery: A Good Biblical Definition:

*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, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: (Romans 16:25,26)*

A typical list from a C. I. Scofield Note Set. You may also wish to see an old time Baptist listing at [EarnestlyContending.org](http://EarnestlyContending.org)

A “mystery” in Scripture is a previously hidden truth, now divinely revealed; but in which a supernatural element still remains despite the revelation. The greater mysteries are:

- (1) The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven Matthew 13:3-50 .
- (2) the mystery of Israel’s blindness during this age Romans 11:25 (with context);
- (3) the mystery of the translation of living saints at the end of this age 1 Corinthians 15:51 1 Corinthians 15:52 ; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 .
- (4) the mystery of N.T. church as one body composed of Jew and Gentile Ephesians 3:1-11 ; Romans 16:25 ; Ephesians 6:19 ; Colossians 4:3 .
- (5) the mystery of the church as the bride of Christ Ephesians 5:28-32 .
- (6) the mystery of the in-living Christ Galatians 2:20 ; Colossians 1:26 Colossians 1:27 .
- (7) the “mystery of God even Christ,” i.e. Christ as the incarnate fullness of the Godhead embodied, in whom all the divine wisdom for man subsists Colossians 2:2 Colossians 2:9 ; 1 Corinthians 2:7 .
- (8) the mystery of the processes by which godlikeness is restored to man 1 Timothy 3:16 .
- (9) the mystery of iniquity 2 Thessalonians 2:7 ; Matthew 13:33 .
- (10) the mystery of the seven stars Revelation 1:20 .
- (11) the mystery of Babylon Revelation 17:5 Revelation 17:7 .