



# Bible Student's Notebook<sup>TM</sup>

## *The Herald of His Grace*

Presenting **every man** perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XVI  
Issue 397

# *The Revelation of the Mystery*

(Part 1 of 6)

by — Robert C. Brock

*The Revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began (Romans 16:25).*

## **Why It Is Called the Mystery**

### **BECAUSE IT WAS KEPT SECRET**

*The Revelation of **the mystery**, which was **kept secret since** the world began. (Romans 16:25).*

### **BECAUSE IT WAS HIDDEN IN GOD**

***The mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been **hid in God** (Ephesians 3:9).*

### **BECAUSE IT WAS HIDDEN FROM AGES AND GENERATIONS**

*Even **the mystery** which hath been **hid from ages and from generations** (Colossians 1:26).*

*Which **in other ages was not made known** unto the sons of men (Ephesians 3:5).*

Here are three Biblical reasons why this revelation is called a “mystery.” It was kept secret, hidden in God, and hidden from ages and generations.

The word “mystery” means “secret,” and as used in the Bible it means a “sacred secret.”

Since it was kept secret, hidden in God, this mystery cannot be found in the Old Testament.

A phrase in Ephesians 3:8, “**the unsearchable riches of Christ**,” also testifies to this fact. “Unsearchable” means “untraceable” – that is, these riches of Christ cannot be traced anywhere else in the Bible except in Paul’s writings, which are specifically [directed] to the Body of Christ.

In addition to the three verses already quoted, “*the Mystery*” is mentioned at least six other times.

*Having made known unto us **the mystery** of His will (Ephesians 1:9).*

*He made known unto me **the mystery** (Ephesians 3:3).*

*That ye may understand my knowledge in **the mystery** of Christ (Ephesians 3:4).*

*To make known **the mystery** of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19).*

*To speak **the mystery** of Christ, for which I am also in bonds (Colossians 4:3).*

*Holding **the mystery** of the faith in a pure conscience (I Timothy 3:9).*

This makes, then, “*the Mystery*” a unique and distinctive message; it is a message that is absolutely different from anything that was preached before it and from anything that will be preached after it.

“*The Revelation of the Mystery*” is in a class by itself, and certainly it is not to be mixed with any other Gospel or thought to be part of any other Gospel. ■

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## **Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
  - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
  - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
  - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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# Stay the Course

by — Martin Zender

When you run a marathon – a 26.2 mile race – you always wonder – usually somewhere after the 20-mile mark – why the hell you decided to run a marathon. It seemed like such a good idea a couple months before, while dreaming of the glory of crossing the finish line during an easy training run.



Incredibly, it happened with all of the ecclesias of Asia:

*All those in the province of Asia were turned from me (II Timothy 1:15).*

They were turned, not just from Paul, but from his message.

Then comes the race. It's fun at first (I have run five marathons). The excitement of running with great gobs of people and drinking as many free cups of Gatorade as you can choke down, makes you glad you entered. But then comes the 20-mile mark. As the waffles at the bottoms of your shoes melt into the pavement, you question your sanity. And how can there be so many other stupid idiots in one place, doing the same stupid thing?

While suffering, it is easy to talk yourself off the course. When your legs start cramping and you can't slake your thirst anymore, you must trust that you *had* good reasons for being here. You can't think of one of them now – it's true – but you know you had at least a couple. Thus, the marathon now becomes a run of faith. You already made the decision – now keep going. Try to remember the days when you *had* weighed this out, and decided to do it.

None of us decided to be born. But we did decide to get married. To have kids. To take that job. To buy the car. To start the exercise program. *To follow Christ no matter what.* I have heard so many of you say, "I can't turn back now. How can I go back?" I hate to say this but, relatively speaking, you *can* go back. You *can* quit the fight. I know that's a scary thought, but it's real. This happened with some of Paul's closest companions.

*Demas, loving this current eon, forsook me (II Timothy 4:10).*

We cannot lose membership in the body of Christ. But we *can* – by walking off the course – lose rewards at the dais of Christ given to those who endure (II Timothy 2:12).

This is a marathon, folks, and it ain't over 'til it's over.

It ain't over. ■

(From Martin Zender's blog, *Zenderville*)



## ***The Problem of Evil and The Judgments Of God***

by — A.E. Knoch

#3850, 346 pp, PB, \$15.95  
(+ \$3.99 S&H = \$19.94)

This book traces the divine function of evil from its inception to its consummation, by presenting scriptural solutions to the various long-debated questions concerning God and His sovereignty. Here is what one of our readers has written about *The Problem of Evil*:

"The litmus test for motive in any writer is whether or not the power of the 'Cross' is being diminished or supplanted in any way; Knoch unfolds each point with the loving simplicity of someone who has faced and answered the critics with the over-arching victory of Calvary. One comes away from each chapter of this work once again realizing that the offense of the 'Cross' has driven so many wonderful and freeing truths out of what is traditionally taught and practiced."

# *A Personal Observation:*

## *Kurt Warner*

by — André Sneidar

An article about an upcoming “positive” and “inspirational” show on the USA network, featuring Kurt Warner states the following (quoted from *The Blaze*):

As for his own life, Warner said that he has seen God work in mysterious ways.

“My life’s an example of what can be done when you mix your belief in work, effort and God’s grace and power,” he said.

Despite the personal shortcomings that every individual has, Warner believes God can help transform life situations. But he also cautions that people must be willing to examine their own hearts — and minds — to stay motivated. Rather than avoiding challenges, the host said it’s important for people to walk through whatever doors God might open.

“A big part of what I’ve learned is that God can do amazing things wherever our shortcomings or limitations are,” he said. “God’s there to step in and do more with me than anyone expected. If you stay focused on what God presents in front of you ... stay prepared ...

whatever you do, be great at it.”

While at first glance it seems “positive” and “inspirational,” Kurt Warner’s statement is a sad reflection on the “Christian” belief system’s faulty reasoning, as if anything that God “somehow” “manages” to get done can be done only when your own personal belief, motivation and effort are enough for Him to “step in” and assist you in accomplishing your dream (read, “will”).

This is just human philosophy at best, dressed in the guise of “spiritual” language that makes it appear godly. Yet it is anything but, when we consider the Bible’s many statements that ALL is of God (*i.e.*, II Corinthians 5:18), and the numerous passages that His will is done *in spite* of and contrary to what man may think, say or do. Let one passage suffice to proclaim that God is God, and that nothing that we think, say or do will alter His plan and purpose through all of the ages – past, present or future:

*He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, “What doest Thou?”* (Daniel 4:35).

### The Foundations of Dispensational Truth

The Lord hath spoken (Malachi 1:2)

## *The Foundations of Dispensational Truth*

by – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

Originally published in 1913, this was Bullinger’s last book. It serves to help cut the tether of tradition with which Christians have been bound for so long. It does so by showing the absolute necessity of observing the great duty of “*rightly dividing the Word of Truth*” (II Timothy 2:15).

This definitive work recognizes the clear distinctions between the Body of Christ and Israel. Controversial in the eyes of traditional Christianity, this extraordinary work will prove invaluable to the serious student of Scripture.

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#8335, 247 pp, PB, \$19.95  
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I for one am enjoying your work. – **CA**

I just want to say “Thank you” for your article in the *Bible Student’s Notebook* entitled “The I- Cycle.” It has completely changed my walk with God. Honestly, I am one of those believers that struggle to embrace the “new I” and this is largely because I had not fully embraced the truth about the dissolution of the old humanity.

I just thank God always upon remembrance of you. Your writings are Father’s answers to all my deepest desires. My love to your family, and I look forward with great enthusiasm to the day I meet you and your family. – **MD**

Please continue our subscription to the *Bible Student’s Notebook* for another year. I feel like to be deprived of the truth in these articles would be like shutting off the oxygen to my body. I would surely gasp for life. They are a big portion of my food and

strength. They keep me focused on the right path of grace, not the works of law. I thank God for the way He uses you. Such a blessing! – **IL**

Right now we are going through your book, *World Affairs and National Politics*. Wow! What an amazing book! I thank God every day for you and your knowledge. I am not sure why, but this book has especially affected me. I have wept at parts of it and sometimes have a hard time wrapping my head around all of it. ...

My brother, for years has been trying to explain rightly dividing the truth, to our nephew. It wasn’t until he met you in Carolina just recently and you explained it, it totally made sense to him. He called my brother so excited and said, “It wasn’t until Clyde explained it, that I got it.” ...

Thank you Clyde, for all that you do. We appreciate you more than you know. – **IA**

I just wanted to send you a short thank you for your *hospitality*. I surely felt right at home and welcomed the whole time. You have a wonderful family and extended group there. I can’t remember when I had such an enjoyable weekend with people I had never met before. – **VA** ■



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# Short Quotes

## Saint

Every believer is a saint. This word does not refer to any *attainment* whatsoever, but simply expresses that the believer is “holy,” “separated,” “set apart,” “sanctified” by the call of God (I Corinthians 1:2). Hence it is no assumption to take the name of “saint.”

A.T. Schofield

*A Dictionary of Some of the More Common Biblical Words and Phrases* (1882)

## Giving Forth God's Word

Whatever opposition we may encounter, we are to speak and give forth the Word of God, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear (Ezekiel 2:5, 7), and not to corrupt it or alter it to please the people: to distribute versions of it, not “the best that people will take,” but the best that we can make.

E.W. Bullinger

*Figures of Speech*

## Limited Time for Faith?

God forbid that I should limit the time of acquiring faith to the present life. In the depth of the Divine mercy there may be opportunity to win it in the future.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

*Letter to Hanseu Von Rechenberg* (1522)

## Sermon on the Mount

It will be found that the teachings of the kingdom presented in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) are in exact accord with the Old Testament predictions regarding the kingdom, and are almost wholly in disagreement with the teachings of grace.

Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952)

*Systematic Theology*

## Pennsylvania Annual Retreat

July 5-7 (Friday through Sunday)

Lakeview Lodge – Treasure Lake, Du Bois, PA

### AGENDA

#### FRIDAY

Those who arrive in early for the weekend can meet at the Cayman cottages at 5 p.m. We'll have a campfire potluck and visit the Lakeview Lodge to tour the meeting space. (Contact Stephen with what you are planning to bring to the potluck. Other drinks and snacks/appetizers are available in the Lodge restaurant and bar for the remainder of the evening).

#### SATURDAY

Teaching: 9 a.m.-Noon

Lunch: Noon-2 p.m.

Teaching: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Evening: For those wanting to share dinner together, we will meet at 6:30 at the Treasure Lake Ski Lodge, followed by evening fellowship (either at the Cayman cottages or the main lake for fireworks).

#### SUNDAY

Check-out, followed by

Teaching: 9 a.m.-Noon

Activities for those who wish to arrive early or stay late

include: golf (2 PGA courses), swimming at the beach or Lakeview Lodge pool, canoeing on the lake, horseback riding, hiking, biking and fishing. For more information on the location and facilities visit: [www.treasurelakepoa.com](http://www.treasurelakepoa.com)

### CONTACT

Stephen Hill: [stevehillagency@gmail.com](mailto:stevehillagency@gmail.com) – 740-341-9948

### TEACHERS

Stephen Hill, Clyde Pilkington, Martin Zender

### LODGING

Cayman Cottages in Treasure Lake (everyone together).

Cottages are \$75 per night at the member rate (through Stephen Hill). Each cottage has a queen bed and a sleeper sofa (sleeping 4 comfortably), a fire pit, and a fully functional kitchen (no microwave). Everyone must bring their own linens.

Group meals are planned for Friday and Saturday nights. There are no other group meals planned. Other meal options – privately or collectively – include: cabin kitchen facilities, outside fire pit, or local restaurants. Everyone is responsible for the cost of their own meals.





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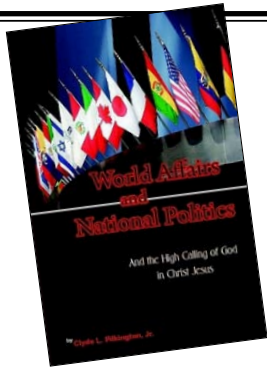


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