

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Colossians 1:24-29**.
- B. This morning I wish to speak of the greatest of all mysteries. No, I speak not of any great work of secular literature. But the greatest mystery is found in the Bible.
- C. And the best part of this mystery is that we know of the end, completely told of all the facts.
- D. I speak of the mystery of Christ. Paul used the term some 21 times in the NT, Jesus and John also spoke of this mystery.

I. A BIBLICAL MYSTERY.

- A. When the Bible speaks of a mystery it has reference to something that has been once hidden but is now revealed, We are so fortunate to live under the NC so as to be able to understand the mystery.
- B. Jesus revealed mysteries in the parables. Those who had understanding hearts were able to grasp the meanings of His teachings (Mt. 13:11).
- C. Paul gives us the essence of the mystery; it is Christ in you (Col. 1:27; 2:2).
- D. This mystery is something that is to be preached (Col. 1:26; 4:3; Eph. 6:19).
- E. This mystery also has to do with the relationship between X and the church (Eph. 5:32).
- F. This mystery also has to do with the future. This verse helps explain how a mystery is something hidden and then revealed (1Cor. 15:51,52).

II. WHAT IS THE MYSTERY?

- A. But with all the above information, one may still ask, "What is this mystery?" The book of Ephesians, and one passage in 1Timothy will answer this question.
- B. The mystery of X is;
 - 1. The summing up of all things in X.
God became victorious over sin in X. All events of history, both sacred and profane were to bring about the one great sacrifice. This is God's pre-determined plan. See Eph. 1:9,10; 1Cor. 2:7,8.
 - 2. The Gentiles are fellow-heirs and fellow-partakers.
The Jews were the first to receive the promise of salvation, but the greatness of the mystery is that even the Gentiles can share in salvation in X. See Eph. 3:4-6; Rom. 11:24-26a.
 - 3. The administration.
The church with its elders, Lord's Supper, Holy Spirit, gospel message, forgiveness, fellowship and grace are things unknown except to Xians (Eph. 3:9; 1:3).
 - 4. The relationship of X and the church.
Jesus is the head of the church, the husband, the groom, the foundation, the chief cornerstone, the mediator and lawgiver. See Eph. 5:32; 2:20; 1Tim. 2:5).
 - 5. Jesus Christ Himself (1Tim. 3:16):
 - a. Who was revealed in the flesh.
 - b. Vindicated in the Spirit.
 - c. Beheld by angels.
 - d. Proclaimed among the nations.
 - e. Believed on in the world.
 - f. Taken up in glory.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. It is because of the blessings of this mystery, now revealed in the NC that Paul preached that every man be complete in X (Col. 1:28,29).

- B. We enjoy reading fictional mystery stories, but one mystery story ends in eternal salvation for those who will unravel its parts and obey its author.
- C. The mystery is X in you, the hope of glory.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.