



LESSON 5

UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

In the last lesson, we considered that the “deep things” of God (meat) referred to by the Apostle Paul relates to an understanding of the “Mystery” or secret message of God given to this Apostle. This gospel of grace had been hidden since the foundation of the earth. The apostle says of this great body of truth, that believers are established by it (Rom. 16:25) that God would have His saints know the riches of the glory of it (Col. 1:27) that it knits hearts together in love and gives the full assurance of understanding (Col. 2:2). He calls it “**the unsearchable riches of Christ**” (untraceable) (Eph. 3:8) and prays for open doors and an open mouth to proclaim it (Eph. 6:19, 20; Col. 4:3, 4) and open minds and hearts to receive it (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21). Naturally, the devil hates it and those who stand for it will, like Paul, have to suffer for it (2 Tim. 2:9-13; Eph. 6:10-20) but such suffering is sweet -- “the fellowship of His suffering.”

JUDGEMENT SEAT

But alas, the vast majority of Christians are too willing to wait until they get to heaven to understand these glorious truths, not realizing that their indifference to the written Word of God will cost them dearly in rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. Many believers suppose that the apostle is referring to heaven in 1 Cor 2:9, but he refers to truth now made known, which he explains in 1 Cor 2:10.

N.B! It’s not heaven he refers to but the programme of Grace. Read Rom 11:32-33. We have already seen that it is honest, prayerful study of the Word, not some emotional religious experience that brings us to spiritual maturity and understanding.

WISDOM OF GOD

But does it not require superior intellectual powers to understand these “deep things of God?” Indeed not. Superior intellects of unsaved men are unable to appreciate even the “simple” truths of the Word, for, “they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). And as to the mystery, the apostle wrote that it was “revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” (Eph. 3: 5).

The mystery is not merely something more difficult to grasp intellectually, for the apostle specifically states that it is “not the wisdom of this world” but “the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 2:6,7). **If revealed truth is rejected, spiritual maturity is impeded.** This explains why many of the humblest believers rejoice in the mystery and understand it so clearly, while so many great theologians and religious leaders fail to grasp it and keep confusing it with God’s prophesied programme regarding the kingdom of Christ. The mystery is not “hard to be understood” because men are slow of mind to understand, but because they are “slow of heart to believe,” because the devil, who “hath blinded the minds of them that believe not” also seeks to keep God’s people from seeing and rejoicing in the truth of the mystery with its riches of grace, its “one body” and its “one baptism.” This is why the apostle prayed so fervently that the believers to whom he ministered might be given “spiritual understanding” to take in the glorious message he was commissioned to proclaim.

The following Chart illustrates the “Mystery”.

"Without Holiness no one shall see the Lord" Heb 12:14

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD IS TWO-FOLD
PROPHECY AND MYSTERY

