

Did Paul Have a 'Distinctive Body of Truth' Called 'The Mystery' ?

'Mid-Acts-ers' constantly promote what-they-call 'the **distinctive** ministry of the apostle Paul'. They say that God committed a '**unique** message' only to Paul. They have named Paul's 'body of truth' 'the mystery'.

In this study, we will look at what-the-BIBLE-calls 'the mystery' to see why the 'mid-Acts-ers' are wrong. A mystery, or a secret, is something that is hidden from plain sight however, that does not mean that NO ONE knows anything at all about it like Daniel knowing a secret, for example:

Dan 2:19 Then was **the secret revealed unto Daniel** in a night vision.
Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Dan 2:22 **He revealeth the deep and secret things:**

he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Dan 2:28 But **there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.** Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

God revealed His secret to His saints:

Psa 25:14 **The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him;**
and he will shew them his covenant.

Prov 3:32 For the froward is abomination to the LORD:
but **his secret is with the righteous.**

Amos prophesied that God revealed His secret to His servants the prophets:

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing,
but **he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

John said that the **wrap-up of the mystery of God being at the**

7th trump was revealed to God's servants the prophets:

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel,
when he shall begin to sound,
the mystery of God should be finished,
as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Paul certainly understood about the mystery of God, which he equated with the mystery of Christ. He encouraged the saints at Colosse in it:

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of **the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;**

Paul said the mystery of Christ was not revealed in 'other ages' **like it is now**. That does not mean that NO ONE ever knew anything about it ... but that it was not understood clearly then, in the same way it is now:

Eph 3:1-11 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of **the dispensation (Greek word <oikonomia> used 7 times in the KJV, translated 'dispensation' 4 times and translated 'stewardship' 3 times - Luke 16:2-4) of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward:

3 How that by revelation **he made known unto me the mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand

my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, **as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;**

Prophecy foretold of Gentile salvation, however, no one knew that the Gentiles would ever be EQUAL with Israel ... ONE and the SAME with them:

6 That the **Gentiles should be fellowheirs, (we share their inheritance) and of the same body, (we are united together as one with them)**

and **partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: (now Israel's promises belong to us because we, too, have been put 'in Christ')**

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And **to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,** which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that **now** unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places **might be known** by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

The prophets of the Old Covenant **LAW** prophesied that Jesus Christ would bring **GRACE** with the New Covenant. They prophesied Christ's death and resurrection. They wrote of His coming kingdom. They realized it was for a future generation. ('Mid-Acts-ers' claim that Peter taught a 'prophesied-grace' of the prophets and that Paul taught a different grace being a 'mystery-grace'. But there is no reasonable reason to invent such a concoction. They do it to protect their '2 of nearly everything' paradigm):

1 Pet 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who **prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:**

Also notice that the prophets in time past had the Spirit of Christ in them:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them** did signify, when it testified beforehand **the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.**

12 **Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things,** which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

RIGHT DIVISION in the word of God is between the Old Testament law of Moses and the New Testament grace of Christ. Grace did not come BY Paul, although he had a '**stewardship**' of grace for the Gentiles. The **SCRIPTURE** says that grace came BY Jesus Christ (BEFORE Paul):

John 1:17 For the **law** was given by Moses, but **grace** and truth **came by Jesus Christ.** (Luke 2:40, John 1:14,16)

Not just Jesus' disciples, but **ALL** believers were sanctified and made one:

John 17:19-21 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be **sanctified through the truth.**

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but **for them also which shall believe on me through their word;**

21 **That they all may be one;** as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, **that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**

The multitude of believers were of one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32), as Jesus had prayed for them to be. GREAT GRACE was upon ALL of them **BEFORE Paul** yet 'mid-Acts-ers' try to make it 'unique' with Paul:

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace was upon them all.**

The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch because a great number of the Grecians believed on the Lord Jesus (Acts 11:20-22). Barnabas witnessed this 'grace of God' happening on the Gentiles **BEFORE Saul/Paul** was even there. He had not left Tarsus (Acts 4:25), where he had been since Acts 9:30:

Acts 11:23 Who (Barnabas), when he came (to Antioch), and had **seen the grace of God (before Saul/Paul ever got there)**, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Clearly (Acts 4:33 before Paul was even saved) Paul was not the first to preach the resurrection of Jesus Christ, nor was he the first to 'dispense' grace to the Gentiles. **'Mid-Acts-ers' WRONGLY divide.** They mis-use the words of GOD that were written by Paul and create much confusion:

Rom 16:25-27 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,**

26 **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:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

When Paul wrote of 'my' gospel (Rom 2:16; 16:25), he was **NOT** **singling himself out** as having a 'different' gospel that any other prophet had (Acts 13:1) although 'mid-Acts-ers' say that he was:

2 Tim 2:8 Remember that **Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:**

Peter had preached that **SAME** information **BEFORE** Paul preached it and long **BEFORE** that, the prophet David knew it, too:

Acts 2:29-32 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch **David**, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that **of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;**

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

When Paul wrote about the preaching of Jesus Christ and information that was previously kept secret since the world began, he was **NOT** **singling himself out** as having 'different' mystery than any other prophet had although 'mid-Acts-ers' say that he was. Jesus Himself explained to His disciples/apostles, in the context of the parable of the end of the world that, according to the scriptures (Psa 78:2-4, Isa 42:9), **HE** spoke things that were kept secret since the beginning:

Matt 13:34-35 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; **I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.**

'Mid-Acts-ers' focus on only PAUL's words -- as if HE is the ONLY one whose words we need to hold fast claiming PAUL had 'MYSTERY' information:

2 Tim 1:13 Hold fast the form
of sound (**Greek <hugiaino>**) words (**Greek <logos>**),
which thou hast heard of me,
in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Yet in Paul's 1st letter to Timothy, he wrote the exact same Greek words about **teaching the words of Christ**. 'Mid-Acts-ers' ADD their own doctrine here to say that Paul meant 'the words that Christ GAVE TO HIM':

1 Tim 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not
to wholesome (**Greek <hugiaino>**) words (**Greek <logos>**),
even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

Paul was not the 'dispenser' of grace God was and God's grace came BY Jesus Christ (John 1:17). Paul was God's 'steward' to dispense the grace of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (Eph 3:1-7), because they had never heard before according to PROPHECY:

Rom 15:20-21 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

21 But **as it is written**, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.

It was a mystery that the Gentiles would be EQUAL partakers WITH and AMONG Israel (Eph 3:6) those who were already sanctified by faith in Christ (Acts 26:18) which was Paul's commission from the start.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"