

The Church of the Body

We are still studying Scripture build-up and have learned about the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Church in Revelations. Our previous Artios Letters on the word ‘gospels’ have led us to this next discussion of the period between the two gospel periods—the Church of the Body of Christ. The Church of the Body fits under the kingdom of God, but it is not the Church of the Bride. It is the Church of the Body of Christ, one of the greatest secrets ever revealed by God. Had Satan known this great secret, he never would have crucified the Lord of Glory—Jesus Christ. In the gospels, Jesus said that "I will build my church." In the Epistles, we have something entirely different.

(Col 1:18-19 KJV) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preemi-



nence. {19} For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

Here, we find reference to the Church of the Body. “And he is the head of the body, the church.” In the Epistles, the body of Christ is the Church. Jesus Christ is the head of this church of the body, and we are members of that body. For this church, there is no head president or other head person. There is only one head, Jesus Christ. This is because God gave him to be head.

(1 Cor 12:12 KJV) For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of

that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

In the Epistles, the church is the body of Christ. All Christians are members of that body.

In trust with the gospel

Another usage of the word ‘gospel’ speaks of it as ‘good news.’

(1 Th 2:4 KJV) But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

The gospel of good news is what taught us about becoming Christians. Paul teaches that we are to speak this good news to others. We have been put in trust with the gospel. The good news has been entrusted to us. We are to speak this good news in Christ’s stead.

(2 Cor 4:1 KJV) There-

The Church of the Body

fore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

We have received a ministry and we are to exercise the associated responsibilities by speaking/preaching the good news of Christ Jesus the Lord.

(2 Cor 4:5 KJV) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Preach the gospel

(Rom 10:15 KJV) And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

We are sent to preach glad tidings of good things—Jesus Christ.

(2 Cor 5:18 KJV) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

We can now act in Christ's stead because we've been given the ministry of reconciliation.

(1 Cor 2:9-10 KJV) But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. {10} But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

This great truth was kept secret since the world began. If it was a secret, then nobody knew about it. Once God revealed this great news, then everybody could know. It was kept secret since the foundation of the world, and was finally revealed to Paul.

The Mystery of the Gospel [good news]

(Eph 6:19 KJV) And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

The mystery of the gospel was first revealed to Paul. It wasn't until it was revealed to Paul that people could know about it. For years, the first century believers did not know this mystery. The Old Testament prophets didn't know about it either.

(1 Tim 3:16 KJV) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God [Use of the word 'God' is a deliberate forgery. The text reads 'Which'. In this context, God was never manifest in the flesh. What was manifest in the flesh? The mystery of godliness was manifest in the flesh.] Which was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

This mystery of godliness was manifest in the flesh, but in this context, God was never manifest in the flesh. It was one of the greatest things that God has ever done.

(Eph 1:9 KJV) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will,

The Church of the Body

according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

The mystery of his will was made known unto us.

Joint Heirs

(Rom 8:16-17 KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: {17} And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

It wasn't a secret that the Gentiles would be blessed by God. It was a secret that the Gentiles would be made fellow heirs of the body of Christ. The riches of this grace are absolutely untrackable.

(Eph 3:3-9 KJV) 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; {6} That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: {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 [enlighten] 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:

We read in verse three: “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;” Now we can also understand and enjoy the great mystery—that the Gentiles would be fellow heirs of the body of Christ.

The riches of the glory of the mystery

(Col 1:25-27 KJV) Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; {26} *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: {27} To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

The riches of the mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory!

This mystery brings with it great riches and they have been hid from ages, and from generations, but are now made manifest to his saints. The mystery of the Gentiles being joint heirs was hid from the world. The riches of this great mystery were also hid. With Christ, the riches of this mystery are in each one of us. Well, how many places can Christ now be? The answer is everywhere we are. When you walk down the street, it's Christ in you. While Jesus Christ was on earth, he could

The Church of the Body

only be at one place at a time. It was then that he was the bride groom. They were separated, they were two entities.

**In our church, he's IN you.
There is no separation.**

What a mystery! That's how God planned it! Ladies and gentlemen, what power we've got, if we only knew it. Now, people can understand this. Most people usually can't go any further than Jesus Christ crucified. Because of this, most never receive the vastness of this mystery in their understanding. It was that way then, and it is that way today. What do you see on top of the steeple? What is in the middle of the altar?

When does this church terminate?

(1 Cor 15:51-54 KJV) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, {52} In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible

must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. {54} So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

The Church of the Body terminates with this great victory.

(1 Cor 2:7-8 KJV) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: {8} Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

If Satan would have known about this, he never would have crucified the Lord of Glory. The sufferings of Christ happened in the Gospels. There will be no sufferings when Christ is once again with his church. We await the return which will take place between the gospels [Mathew, Mark, Luke

and John] and Revelation. We have Christ in us and are part of the church of God. This was the great mystery now made known. It's Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Much Love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown