

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## An Administration Suitable for the Fullness of Times

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### Introduction

There is an old saying about not seeing the forest for the trees. In other words we are so focused on what is directly in front of us—the trees—that we don't see the bigger picture—the forest. This seems to be particularly true of spiritual things. Have we as the people of God lost sight of His plans and purposes? Have we so majored on minors that we have little idea of God's eternal purpose? Have we reduced the mystery of His will to a simplistic “get me to Heaven” goal?

### The Mystery

This is what Paul told the Ephesians:

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ([Ephesians 1:9-10 NASB](#))

There is a mystery associated with God's will; but, it is a mystery that has been made known to us: “*that is*, **the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,**” ([Colossians 1:26 NASB](#))

The nature of a mystery is that it is not understood until it is revealed or explained, which means that unless one desires to understand the mystery it will not be understood. Jesus said that not everyone would understand some mysteries.

And He was saying to them, “**To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,**” ([Mark 4:11 NASB](#))

Jesus spoke this to His disciples who were to understand the mystery of the Kingdom of God. Those outside of the Kingdom would only get things in parable form.

However, Paul tells us that the mystery that was hidden has now been revealed

1. to us [**Eph. 1:9**]
2. to the saints [**Col. 1:26**]
3. to the apostles and prophets [**Eph. 3:5**]

The revealing of the mystery has been done by the Holy Spirit [**Eph. 3:5**] because the Holy Spirit is the administrator of the things of the Lord. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would continue to speak truth to them after He was gone and when they were able to bear it.

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. (John 16:12-15 NASB)

Jesus has received all things from the Father and the Holy Spirit receives of the Lord the things that need to be disclosed to us and then reveals them to us as we are able to bear it.

## The Mystery Revealed

Paul makes it very clear what the revelation of the mystery of His will is in several Scriptures.

**Eph. 1:10**—the summing up of all things in Christ—things in the heavens and things in the earth.

**Eph 3:6**—the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus

**Col. 1:27**—Christ in you the hope of glory

**Rom. 11:25**—a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in

Putting these together shows the various aspects of God's eternal purpose. God intends to sum up or head up all things in Christ. This is why He is King of the Kingdom and Head of the Church. This summing up includes the Gentiles who through the work of Christ Jesus have been made partakers of the promise in Him, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. In accomplishing this God has allowed a partial hardening of Israel until the fullness, the full number, of the Gentiles has come in. When this occurs Israel's hardness will be removed and they will recognize Jesus as Messiah and King.

## Administration of the Mystery

Before Jesus ascended He told His disciples to wait to receive the Holy Spirit, which the Father had promised. As they were to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the administration of the purposes of God would proceed as they witnessed of Jesus to the Jews and to the Gentiles. [**Acts 1:4-5**]

Paul told the Ephesians that he was called to preach Christ and to enlighten them about the

administration of the mystery which had been hidden.

and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*. *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ([Ephesians 3:9-11 NASB](#))

He also explained why the administration of the mystery was important. It was so that the multi-faceted wisdom of God could now be revealed or made known to the rulers and the authorities in the Heavens. This was to be done through the Church in accordance with God's eternal purpose which was fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son. This began the administration, the management, of the completing of the eternal purposes of God. Jesus completed the work given to Him [**John 17:4**]. The Holy Spirit was then sent to administrate the culmination, the bringing to a conclusion, of the eternal purpose of God.

We are now a part of that administration. That means that we also have work that has been assigned to us to accomplish the Lord's goal.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. ([Ephesians 2:10 NASB](#))

We were created for purpose. Our work was prepared for us beforehand with the intention that we would accomplish all of the work that had been assigned to us. As we do our jobs the Holy Spirit does His. When His work is finished the administration of the mystery is complete.

but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets. ([Revelation 10:7 NASB](#))

This Scripture in Revelation tells us when this happens. It is at the seventh trumpet—the last trumpet—when the mystery is complete and all things are summed up in Christ Jesus.

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