

Christ(15)

March 30, 2022

This has been a lengthy series of lessons on our Lord Jesus Christ, but it only briefly covers what has been revealed to us through the Bible. The Bible itself only includes a small portion of what Christ did while He ministered on earth (John 21:25), and I think it is safe to say that what He has done and is doing for us from His heavenly position is far beyond what has been revealed to us. With that in mind, here is a brief summary of what has been addressed.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God the Father, and the universe was created by Him and for Him. Although the people of God (beginning with Adam) didn't know it, Christ was working for them throughout the Old Testament times. When He came to earth as a man, He served the people of Israel and proclaimed the imminent establishment of His heavenly kingdom on earth. Our Lord's birth, ministry, death, and resurrection were all prophesied in the Old Testament. His future activities for Israel, as well as His judgments against sin, were also prophesied in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Consequently, Christ is the main subject of the entire Bible.

Although Christ's death and resurrection were prophesied, the full ramifications of His work at the cross for us were not revealed until Christ Himself revealed it to His Apostle Paul. Through multiple revelations to Paul, Christ revealed God's manifold wisdom—his eternal purpose through Christ. Paul referred to this multi-component revelation as the mystery, but not because it was mysterious. Instead, it described what God had hidden in Himself since *before* the world began, whereas prophecy had been proclaimed since the world began.

It has been nearly 2,000 years since God interrupted His prophetic earth-based plan and introduced His heavenly plan through Paul. This time, that Paul called the dispensation (administration) of the grace of God, will end at the rapture. There are no prophetic events—signs of the times—that have to be fulfilled to signal the imminence of the rapture. Brethren, the rapture could still be many years in the future, but truly it could occur any day and we should live our lives accordingly (e.g., with humility and thanksgiving).

Whether at the time of the rapture or some other day, all believers (members of the body of Christ) will stand before the judgment seat of Christ where our motives in our service to our Lord will be judged. Therefore, today and every day is the right time to examine ourselves and our service to God as ambassadors for Christ. Are we walking worthy of our salvation?

Therefore, we [believers] are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (II Corinthians 5:20)

Therefore I [Paul], the prisoner of the Lord, implore you [brethren] to walk in a manner worthy of the calling [salvation] with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)