

## **The Mystery About Christ**

### *Part 1 – Preserve It Because Many Pervert It*

Ephesians 3:1-13

#### **Introduction:**

- A. “The mystery of Christ” is mentioned in verse 4
  - 1. The Greek word is musterion which means that which is s\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. God kept Christ a secret in the p\_\_\_\_\_ generations but revealed that secret to His apostles.
    - a. He did give c\_\_\_\_\_ to the people of Israel through His prophets.
    - b. Those clues are w\_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament.
- B. Who knows about the mystery of the Christ today?
  - 1. There are about \_\_\_\_\_ people groups who have never heard that salvation is in Christ Jesus.
  - 2. A high percentage of “Christians” deny some biblical aspect of s\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.
- C. This passage should stir us to action
  - 1. To p\_\_\_\_\_ the mystery about Christ
  - 2. To p\_\_\_\_\_ the mystery about Christ

#### **Preserve it because many pervert it**

- A. The apostle Paul wrote this letter from p\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1)
  - 1. His crime – spreading the g\_\_\_\_\_ to the Gentile world (*for the sake of you Gentiles*)
  - 2. He interrupts his thought in verse 1, which is indicated in modern translations by the h\_\_\_\_\_, and picks it back up in verse 14.
- B. The apostle Paul’s interruption of thought
  - 1. A m\_\_\_\_\_ religion was trying to pervert Christianity
    - a) It taught that the original creator created an aeon, who in turn created another aeon, who in turn created another aeon, etc. Each aeon was less p\_\_\_\_\_ than its creator. A corrupt aeon created this present corrupt world plunging it into ignorance about sin, self, and how to overcome it.
    - b) Christ was one of the upper aeons that came to save mankind from that ignorance
    - c) K\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s teachings bring about this salvation.
  - 2. Paul counters this perversion of the truth.
    - a. God created \_\_\_\_\_ things (see verse 9 - there was no series of creators; there is only ONE creator)

- b. God revealed the mystery about Christ to His h\_\_\_\_\_ apostles and prophets (see verse 5).
  - c. The mystery is identified as the g\_\_\_\_\_ (see verse 6).
- C. We preserve the truth by defending it against perversions
  - 1. The identity of Jesus Christ – must get it right to be saved (cannot be saved by another Christ that someone has made up)
    - a. Jehovah's W\_\_\_\_\_ is a group that teaches Jesus Christ to be Michael the arch\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. What clues did God give in the Old Testament as to the identity of this Christ?
      - 1) Isaiah 9:6 – He would be called the Mighty G\_\_\_\_\_ (this is a title of Yahweh - Jer 32:8).
      - 2) Micah 5:2 – prophecies of the origin of the prophesied Christ.
        - a) His human existence had a beginning – He would be born in B\_\_\_\_\_
        - b) He preexisted as one without a beginning – *from the days of e\_\_\_\_\_* (the same Hebrew phrase used in Ps 90:2 used to describe how long God has been God).
    - c. The New Testament puts the clues altogether– Jesus Christ is the Creator God in the f\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 1:1-3,14)
  - 2. Jehovah's Witnesses perversion of Col 1:5 - Jesus as firstborn of all creation means He's the first c\_\_\_\_\_ being.
    - a. The meaning of the biblical term, *firstborn*.
      - 1) Original meaning – the first one in order of b\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Lk 2:7)
      - 2) A second meaning – the first one in order of r\_\_\_\_\_
        - a) In ancient times women l\_\_\_\_\_ to bear children producing huge families.
        - b) It was not uncommon for the h\_\_\_\_\_ to die before all the children were grown.
        - c) The firstborn son inherited the responsibility to r\_\_\_\_\_ the family in place of his father.
    - b. Psalm 89:27 uses the term firstborn in relationship to the prophesied Christ.
      - 1) God would m\_\_\_\_\_ Him His firstborn sometime in the future.
      - 2) He would be the firstborn by becoming the h\_\_\_\_\_ of the kings of the earth (Rev 17:14 – King of Kings)
    - c. Jesus become God's firstborn when He rose from the dead (a\_\_\_\_\_ authority was given Him – Matt 28:18)

- d. Every reference to Jesus as firstborn (except Lk 2:7) is using the term to mean the ultimate ruler:
  - 1) Rom 8:29 – the highest ranking ruler among His  
b \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Col 1:15 – the ultimate ruler over all c \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) Col 1:18 – the highest ruler that rose from the d \_\_\_\_\_  
which the next phrase explains (*that He might have first place in everything*)
  - 4) Heb 1:6 – commands all the angels to w \_\_\_\_\_  
God's firstborn
  - 5) Rev 1:5 – the ruler over the d \_\_\_\_\_
3. Christian Scientists teach that Jesus and Christ are two  
s \_\_\_\_\_ beings.
  - a. Their perversion – Jesus is the human being and Christ is the divine Spirit
  - b. This was the exact perversion the apostle J \_\_\_\_\_  
identified in his day as being antichrist (1Jn 2:22; 4:2,3)
  - c. Do not separate between the humanity of Jesus and the deity of Jesus.
    - 1) Matt 26:38 – many make the error that this was the human side of Jesus speaking when He said He was deeply grieved in facing the cross (God is an  
e \_\_\_\_\_ God (Gen 6:6; 1Sam 15:11)).
    - 2) The times that Jesus got tired
      - a) Tiredness was b \_\_\_\_\_ of His humanity
      - b) Tiredness was not confined to his humanity but experienced by God (Col 2:9; Heb 4:15).
4. Mormons teach that Jesus is God but a separate being than the Father and the Holy Spirit.
5. God reveals who He is and we must a \_\_\_\_\_ His revelation.
  - a. He is the ONLY c \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 1:1; Rev 4:11)
  - b. He is the ONLY G \_\_\_\_\_ (Is 45:5)
  - c. Jesus is God in the f \_\_\_\_\_ and the Holy Spirit is Yahweh (2Cor 3:17)
  - d. God is somehow Father, Son, and Holy Spirit yet one being

### Conclusion:

- A. Let's preserve the gospel so that we can lead people to the truth.
- B. The truth is not a concept but a p \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 14:6 – Jesus is the truth)