

# THE MYSTERY ABOUT THE CHRIST

## *Part 2 – Proclaim It*

Ephesians 3:1-13

### **Introduction:**

- A. Historical facts are established through researching \_\_\_\_\_ witness reports (verbal or written).
  - 1. The Civil War – no eyewitnesses are alive yet we know with confidence what happened
  - 2. Jesus of Nazareth – no eyewitnesses are alive but we have records from Christian, Jewish, Greek, and Roman eyewitnesses.
    - a. Two historical facts (what people observed)
      - 1) Jesus died on a c\_\_\_\_\_ under the order of the governor of Judea, Pilate
      - 2) Reports of Jesus resurrection from the dead spread and upset Jewish and Roman society so much that they p\_\_\_\_\_ and even killed those proclaiming it.
    - b. Two theological facts (cannot be observed but has to be r\_\_\_\_\_ to us by God).
      - 1) Jesus died for our s\_\_\_\_\_
      - 2) Jesus rose from the dead to guarantee that d\_\_\_\_\_ will be reversed for all believers who die.
- B. The mystery about the Christ is a revelation from God
  - 1. It is the gospel, which is the good n\_\_\_\_\_ that salvation from our sins is through f\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus who died for our sins and rose from the dead.
  - 2. It was revealed to the a\_\_\_\_\_ who preserved it for us in the Bible.
  - 3. It has to be proclaimed (verbally or in writing) to a person before that person can be saved. What are you proclaiming?

### **What does God require before He will save someone? (2,3)**

- A. The apostle Paul
  - 1. Was c\_\_\_\_\_ by God to a missionary to the Gentile world (2).
  - 2. Came to know about the gospel by r\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3)
  - 3. His salvation experience is recorded in Acts 9
    - a. He was on his way to Damascus with a company of men to l\_\_\_\_\_ persecute the Christians there.
    - b. A bright light that was brighter than the sun shined all around them causing them all to f\_\_\_\_\_ to the ground.

- c. They could all hear a voice but only Paul could understand the words (Paul later called it a heavenly v\_\_\_\_\_ - Acts 22:9)
- d. Paul was struck b\_\_\_\_\_ and the voice identified Himself as the resurrected Jesus Christ.
- e. Jesus told Paul to go to the house of Ananias in Damascus who would give him further instructions.
- f. Paul's traveling companions led him to Ananias who told Paul to r\_\_\_\_\_ and be baptized while calling on the name of the Lord Jesus.

B. The people today

1. Cannot be saved except through the gospel (God's promises to save people from every people group – Rev 5:9,10).
  - a. This does not seem f\_\_\_\_\_ since there are millions that are dying without having the chance of hearing the gospel.
  - b. Some philosophize that people can be saved by observing creation and use Rom 1:19,20 to justify their reasoning, but the context is not talking about a revelation that saves but a revelation that c\_\_\_\_\_ rendering every person without excuse.
2. Rom 10:13-17 gives the steps necessary for God to save a person. It begins with the truth – whoever c\_\_\_\_\_ on the name of the Lord will be saved and then gives a series of questions that have an obvious implied answer.
  - a. Question #1 – *How will they call upon Him in whom they have not believed?*
    - 1) Answer: They cannot!
    - 2) Inference: They have to have f\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus to call upon His name.
  - b. Question #2 – *How will they believe in Him whom they have never heard?*
    - 1) Answer: They cannot!
    - 2) Inference: They have to h\_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus before they can have faith in Him.
  - c. Question #3 – *How will they hear without a preacher (i.e. someone telling them)?*
    - 1) Answer: They cannot!
    - 2) Inference – Someone has to t\_\_\_\_\_ them the gospel
  - d. Question #4 – *How will they preach unless they are sent?*
    - 1) Answer: They cannot!
    - 2) Inference – God has to s\_\_\_\_\_ a messenger

- e. Conclusion: *So faith comes by hearing, and hearing from the word of Christ.*

### **What does God desire from me? (10-13)**

- A. God has purposed to make known the gospel through the c\_\_\_\_\_ (10) – this includes you, if you have trusted Jesus.
1. Paul assumes that we already know to proclaim the gospel to people and does not mention this.
  2. Paul focuses on us proclaiming the gospel to rulers and authorities in the h\_\_\_\_\_ (unseen places)
- B. Who are the rulers and authorities in the unseen places?
1. Eph 6:12 uses the same terminology to refer to the spiritually wicked d\_\_\_\_\_ world (since they are spirits, they are not visible to us and so are in unseen places).
  2. But the good angels are also spirits who are in unseen places
    - a. I Cor 4:9 – the apostles have become a s\_\_\_\_\_ to both angels and men.
    - b. 1Pet 1:12 - angels long to look as the g\_\_\_\_\_ is being proclaimed.
    - c. Luke 15:7,10 - when just one person gets saved all the angels of God rejoice in h\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. S\_\_\_\_\_ works to discourage the advancement of the gospel (2 Cor 4:4).
- C. In light of the above God desires:
1. That you and I be a spectacle of the life-ch\_\_\_\_\_ power of the gospel both how we live privately (which the unseen world can observe) and publicly (which the visible world can observe).
  2. That you and I connect the lost around us to the g\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Do not make opportunities but t\_\_\_\_\_ them
    - b. Remember that angels are c\_\_\_\_\_ for you and demons are booing you.
  3. That we as a church body p\_\_\_\_\_ our resources to advance the progress of the gospel throughout the world.
  4. That we focus on the g\_\_\_\_\_, not the cost of proclaiming the gospel.
    - a. The cost (money, time, maybe safety) is nothing compared to the g\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. The gain is that the gospel is saving more and more people, and we are getting closer and closer to God fulfilling His plan of saving people from every people group,