

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

August 10, 2008

The Mystery of God

In the course of the unfolding of the classic mystery story the author gives many clues that ultimately can lead to but one final conclusion. The challenge of the usual mystery novel is to attempt to figure out “who done it” before it is revealed by the author in the “everybody in the library” scene.

The mystery of God has to do with salvation.

Mark 4: 11 “*And he said to them, To you is given the mystery of the kingdom of God: but to them that are without, all things are done in parables: 12 that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest haply they should turn again, and it should be forgiven them.”*

Romans 16: 25 “*Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: 27 To God only wise, [be] glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”*

1 Corinthians 2: 7 “*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world to 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. 9 But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him. 10 But God has revealed [them] to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”*

Ephesians 2: 14 “*For he is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition [between us]; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of two one new man, [so] making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both to God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were near. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together grows into a holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom you also are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

By the innocent death of sinless Jesus God was able to atone for the sins of faithful followers of God, all faithful followers of God. God has never promised to save any but the faithful. The faithful are those who by their actions demonstrate that they believe God’s revealed will and are willing to obey God’s revealed will.

Hebrews 10: 38 “*Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition; but of those that believe to the saving of the soul.”*

Galatians 3: 11 “*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”*

James 2: 19 “*You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 See you how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which said, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 You see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”*

Saving faith never exists apart from works of faith.

The commandments made to Abraham allowed Abraham to demonstrate his willingness to obey God. Faith is belief. **Saving faith is belief that moves a person to obey God.** The Law of Moses was an opportunity for the descendants of Abraham through Jacob to demonstrate their willingness to obey God. Today the gospel of Jesus Christ is the opportunity for **all humankind** to demonstrate our willingness to obey God. Faithfully obeying God’s revealed will allows the faithful to be redeemed by the innocent death of sinless Jesus. The same death that redeemed those Israelites that were faithful under the Law of Moses also redeems all of the faithful both Jews and Gentiles under the New Covenant that God has made with all humankind through the death of Jesus. In the New Covenant all of the faithful are brought together in one redeemed body. All are Christians.

Galatians 3: 26 “*For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you [be] Christ’s, then are you Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

Colossians 3:10 “*And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond [nor] free: but Christ [is] all, and in all.”*

The great mystery of God is that God has redeemed all of the faithful of all time to himself in one blood bought body through the innocent death of sinless Jesus.

Hebrews 10:10 “*We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all]”*

Remember to Pray For

John Michael Siddles, four month old infant in need of a heart transplant
The Antle family, in the death of Troy's aunt, Kaye Schultz
Alyse Robinson
Dallis and Alma Isaacs
Lorene Pagan
Freddie Ward
David and Chessie Harwell
Donna Caldwell
Mabel Greene
Tony Tyree
Ruth Brundige
Cindy Miller
Marlene Wood
Christie Ellis
Janie Smith
Shirley Lewis
Brady Gibbons
Gail Hunter
Larry Flannery
Donnie Joseph
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Helen Stephens
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey

Did you know that blood that a leach uses for food does not coagulate inside of the belly of a leach because God designed leaches to produce an anti-coagulant to prevent the blood from coagulating? Imagine what would happen to a leach with a belly full of blood if God had not designed leaches to deal with the problem of coagulation.

Now imagine how a leach that was without that ability could by accident and without design develop the ability to produce an anti-coagulant before the leach was killed by the coagulation of blood in its belly. Evolution could not take millions of years to happen because living organisms do not live millions of years. Each organism has one only short lifetime on earth and that organism is done. If it succeeds in reproducing it passes nothing to the next generation but what is in its genes from the generation before. If something bites its leg off or destroys its eye those disabilities will not be passed on to the next generation because they are not in the genes. The best explanation is:

**IN THE BEGINNING
GOD CREATED**

**The best medical insurance risk?
A devout Christian**

Thoughts

Because God loves us God has given us some guidance on how to best live on this earth. The rules that God has given are not given in order to make human existence on earth unbearably dull. The rules that God has given are designed to help humans in flesh on earth to have the very best of everything possible. The rules that God has given in the Holy Bible are designed to help humans avoid all of the unpleasant experiences that can possibly be avoided. When we do things that are contrary to God's revealed will we are doing things that are contrary to our own long-term best interests, although our shortsightedness and ignorance may prevent us from seeing that at the present.

A few days ago the local newspaper mentioned that more than 6,500 new HIV infections occur daily worldwide. How many of the 6,500 new HIV infections everyday do we imagine occur in people who are unaware of how HIV spreads? How many of those people do not know that in the Holy Bible God condemns both fornication and intoxication? How many of those people do we imagine sinned, the sins they sinned because it was their intention to become infected with HIV? Their intention is usually to gratify their appetites while ignoring God's rules and their fantasy is that they will succeed in doing that without facing any unpleasant consequences. Because of their lack of respect for God and their unrealistic shortsightedness the number of people suffering from HIV increases by 6,500 worldwide everyday.

Self discipline and virtue guided by the inspired word of God preserved in the Holy Bible pay big dividends both here and hereafter. Sinful self-indulgence destroys life and property, as does a marauding army in a red-hot heavily contested war with big weapons. The US Congress has approved \$48 billion for a global fight against HIV, malaria and TB. That is 48,000,000,000 dollars. Many of the nations on this earth have a yearly, gross domestic product figure, that is far less than \$48 billion. The part of that \$48 billion that HIV is drawing out is overwhelmingly the result of selfish gratification of sinful desires, that respect for God and for His word would have prevented from happening.

The big problem is that the cost in suffering and assets from the results of sexually transmitted diseases is just a tiny bit of the cost of sinful self-indulgence around the world. Think of what intoxication from both alcohol and drugs is costing in the destruction of lives and property across the face of this planet. Nobody ever crashed their car because they **WERE NOT** under the influence of an intoxicant. Nobody ever indulged in sinful activities because they **WERE NOT** under the influence of an intoxicant. But how many people worldwide can trace the destruction or their lives and property directly to the influence of intoxicants?

OBEY GOD AND AVOID THE HIGH COST OF SINNING

Notes

**Men's business meeting today
August 10 at 3:00PM
GOSPEL MEETING HERE
NOVEMBER 2-7 WITH
FRANK WALTON
Mark Your Calendar
Tell Your Friends**

*If we do here what the devil does
We will be in eternity where the devil is*

*If we do here what Jesus did
We will be in eternity where Jesus is*

**It is not the easy times that shape honor,
define character, build muscle, uncover
courage, increase wisdom, stimulate
resolve, clean up thinking, prove
loyalties, demand invention and fine
tune perception.**

**Ten spies said, "We can't", and they
didn't
Two spies said, "We can", and they did**

*The same hard times that make cowards
also make heroes
I wonder what the difference is?*

**If we wish to walk with God
We must stay out of the places
That sinners design for sinners**

God's will may only be done God's way

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

University Heights Church of Christ

**445 Columbia Avenue
Lexington, Kentucky 40508**

859 255-6257

859 266-6406

www.uheightschurch.com

**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**