

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 1 – “Of the Holy Scriptures”, Message # 23 –  
“The Mystery of the Kingdom”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,  
by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**Chapter 1, Paragraph 6** – “The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 15-17   Galatians 1: 8, 9   John 6: 45   1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11: 13, 14   1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14: 26, 40

**1. We must understand that in our Sanctification, there is a progressive work of light being shined into our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit.**

**2. The Importance of understanding Mysteries.**

For Christians in our day it is important that we understand that there are a number of great truths which speak of the gospel and the kingdom of Christ, which are not very well understood by a good many Christians in our day. Let me show you this from the Scriptures themselves.

**a. The Mystery of the kingdom of God**

**Mark 4: 10-13** – “But when Jesus was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.” “And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.” “And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable?” “How then will you understand all the parables?”

Jesus gives this saying to these statements in the context of the parable of the sower and the seed, or the sower and the soils, the various conditions of men’s hearts, in those who hear the preaching of the word as it is sown by God’s ministers. This truth of the kingdom of God we find here, is not only not understood in any sense by many unbelieving people, we find that it is sometimes not that well understood by Christians either. Jesus says – Do you understand this parable? And then he says – How then will you understand all the parables if you do not understand this one.

Why is this? Because not all Christians understand the doctrines of grace, or the mystery of where the good ground of a regenerate heart comes from. In the case of His apostles, it took His further explanation to them to understand it.

**Verses 14-20** – “The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who

hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

As we read this parable, and hear Jesus’ explanation of it, I wonder how many Christians really understand and receive Jesus explanation of it. In connection with our study of mysteries, we should understand that for each and every Christian to understand this parable correctly, it will take the Holy Spirit revealing to them the mystery of the deceptiveness of the human hearth concerning the conclusions that it draws concerning themselves and whether they have truly and savingly believed in Christ. Also, whether they understand concerning themselves that they have the “root of the matter in themselves” because they understand that they have been regenerated by the Spirit of God, that they have new life from God; that their heart has truly been changed to receive the truth of all of God’s word and that they believe in the sovereignty of God.

How many types of soil, that is those hearing the word, here in this parable, do you think really were saved when they heard the word? Well, there is a mystery here isn’t there? The Devil steals the seed of the word in the first, and it is evident that that person is not saved. In regard to the stony ground hearer in verse 16, they hear the word and immediately receive the word with gladness. It appears that they have been truly saved, but it says in verse 17, that they have no root in themselves, and so they only endure for a time. They do not persevere in faith. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> seeds sown, fall among thorns, and those people who hear the word, the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

This seems truly to be a person who has been saved, because perhaps a person can be saved, even if they bear no fruit. But is this true? No, in John 15: 2, Jesus says that every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away. And in verse 6 He says that If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. So, neither can this 3<sup>rd</sup> kind of soil be that of a true Christian. It is only the last kind which is called by the Lord Jesus – the ones sown on good ground. They are those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

So, we see that it is absolutely necessary that a Christian take heed how they hear, and that they would pray that they would have eyes to see and ears to hear, and a mind to comprehend what they are reading and what they are hearing of the Scriptures. For they are mysteries.

**Application 1:** The fact that some Christians do understand these mysteries and that others do not, should not be dismaying to us. We should rather attempt to communicate with them and with others in the body the things that we have learned, and we should maintain the unity of the faith in the process of doing so. We can learn from those who have been given understanding by the Spirit, when we ourselves will pray for more of the Spirit and search the Scriptures ourselves. There are some pastors and teachers whom Christ has given who can teach us the meaning of these mysteries, for ministers are stewards of the mysteries of God. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 4: 1) But we should understand that unless the Spirit makes the truth preached effectual to the hearer, that even a good many Christians may remain willfully ignorant of them. The reason is because by nature in their mind, they may be prejudiced against these mysteries them in some way which cannot be

easily understood. These Christians do believe in the Bible, it is true, but some aspects of Biblical truth they cannot understand and they will disagree with them, because their minds have not been opened to those aspects of truth.

**Application 2:** See to it that you do not disdain those Christians who do not understand all mysteries or disqualify their particular relationship with you; or even refuse their ministry to you and to others in the body of Christ. But rather pray for them and that we will all maintain the unity of the Spirit and maintain it in the bond of peace. Have love for all Christians. Remember 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13: 2 – “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”