

The Known Mystery  
Ephesians 1:9-10

I. Intro

- A. Do you like a good mystery?
  - 1. A who dun it?
  - 2. A puzzle
- B. These things cause our brain to work overtime.
- C. Psychology Today shared, mysteries allow readers to dig into taboo topics, like death, and allow readers to enter dangerous situations without the in-real life risks.
- D. In a murder mystery, we engage our inner Sherlock Holmes without all the messy details intruding on our peaceful like.
- E. But in the mystery of the gospel, we find solace!**
- F. Like when a person becomes aware of their need for a savior, then realizes it has been provided already, and then peace comes upon them as the presences of the Holy Spirit does His work.**

II. Text

- A. Making known to us:
  - 1. Connected to verse 8: understanding
  - 2. God grants understanding!
- B. The mystery of his will
  - 1. This is the things he allows us to understand
  - 2. God gives us the understanding of HIS mysterious plan and will.
- C. According to HIS purpose
  - 1. HIS WILL, HIS PURPOSE
  - 2. This was HIS PLAN
- D. Which HE set forth in Christ
  - 1. HIS PLAN that
  - 2. HE established and fulfills
- E. As a plan for the fullness of time
  - 1. In HIS time
  - 2. With HIS perfection
- F. To unite all things IN HIM
  - 1. This is the result: Unite all thing
  - 2. Unity is a funny thing sometimes, very fickle without proper foundation
- G. Things in heaven and things on earth
  - 1. There is no thing that is outside the plan influence of God
  - 2. There is one Lord of all and He completed the task, and we are in the midst of that completion.

III. Points

- A. Making Known the Mystery**
  - 1. This mystery is not a “who dun it”
  - 2. This mystery is God’s revelation of HIS plan at the proper time.
  - 3. Mysteries mentioned in the Paul’s writings: there are lots of things that we don’t know yet, but will be made known to us when the time is right.**

**Godliness** 1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

**Israel's blindness** Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in

**His Will** Ephesians 1:9

**God and Christ:** Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ

**The Faith:** 1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience  
Christ and the Church: Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**Christ:** Eph 3:3-6 How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:  
Col 1:26-27 Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

**Iniquity:** 2 Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...

**The Rapture:** 1 Cor 15:51-53 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

4. God has not told us everything, and we could not handle it if he did.
  - a) What He has revealed is enough
  - b) We must trust Him for that.
5. **This concept of Mystery hits a little different:**
  - a) **This is a MYSTERY MADE KNOWN TO US**
  - b) **This is something in which we still do not have complete understanding**
  - c) **But, In the midst of this mystery, we find peace, though we do not have full knowledge**
6. **This is where we UNDERSTAND and BELIEVE, though we cannot FULLY explain**

**B. According to HIS PURPOSE**

1. **The purpose of GOD is to reveal HIS MYSTERY and PLAN to HIS CREATION**
2. We are allowed into the circle of trust regarding this mystery, according to the plan of God.
3. **As a Pastor now for a couple of years or so, I've heard this more than anything else in Questioning God:**
  - a) What is His purpose for my life?
  - b) Why is God allowing this to happen?
  - c) Or something similar in both regards
4. **His Purpose is to rescue humanity, and in so doing CELEBRATE to the PRAISE OF HIS GLORIOUS GRACE.**
5. **He has made His purpose known generally, but we get caught up in several areas that hinder us:**
  - a) **We want the details...forgetting this is a walk of faith.**
  - b) **We want specific direction...forgetting its a step by step walk of faith**
  - c) **We want to help direct God...forgetting He is sovereign**

d) We want to go a different direction...forgetting His plan is best

**C. SET FORTH IN CHRIST**

1. This is how the Mystery and Purpose of the fullness of God's plan was fulfilled!
2. Set forth...began...start along the timeline
3. Literally means: expose into view
4. So, the setting forth of God's plan and His purpose, revealed to all humanity in Christ!
5. Silver dollar City Christmas tree reveal:
  - a) Former co-worker thought he went on the day it was revealed every year...
  - b) It was actually revealed twice a day throughout the holiday season.
  - c) He thought he had the 411 on the big reveal, but he didn't
6. The big reveal of God's plan was revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
  - a) It doesn't need to happen again.
  - b) It doesn't lack anything in regards to God's plan.
  - c) IT WAS finished on the cross, and IS STILL finished by the power of the resurrection!

IV. Close