

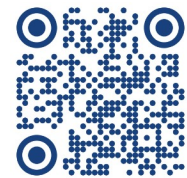
Paul's Two Fold Message

A Teaching by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Teaching

Clip from "The New Covenant, Communion and the Dispensation of Grace" — Lesson 8

Paul's ministry to us in the Dispensation of Grace involves two distinct but inseparable message components, both cited in Romans 16:25. The first is "My Gospel" — the good news of God promised through the Old Testament prophets, now taken to the Gentiles through Paul as the able minister of the New Testament. Believing this gospel makes every Gentile a beneficiary of the New Covenant, receiving the spiritual fitness of justification and sanctification. The second is "The Mystery of Christ" — a revelation kept entirely hidden from ages and generations, now made manifest to the saints: that God is forming a new creation, the Body of Christ, to reconcile the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This teaching traces these two components through Romans, Colossians, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, and Hebrews, showing why rightly dividing them is essential to understanding Paul's ministry and your identity in Christ.



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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	Paul's Two Fold Message: My Gospel and the Mystery of Christ — their distinction, relationship, and sequence

Lesson Summaries

L1

Paul's Two Fold Message *My Gospel and the Mystery of Christ*

- Romans 16:25 identifies Paul's two message components: "My Gospel" and "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery."

Component 1 — My Gospel

- "My Gospel" is the issue of God making Paul a minister of the New Testament to the Gentiles — the good news of God promised afore by his prophets (Romans 1:1–2).
- It offers the benefits of the New Covenant to the Gentiles: justification and

sanctification by grace through faith, making them spiritually fit before God.

- This gospel is preached to every creature under heaven; by believing it, a Gentile becomes a member of the Body of Christ (Colossians 1:23–24).
 - God's reserved legal right to offer Gentiles the New Covenant benefits — despite the covenant being promised to Israel — is foundational to Paul's gospel (Romans 9).

Component 2 — The Mystery of Christ

- The Mystery is God's hidden purpose, hid from ages and generations but now made manifest to the saints: that God is building a new creation to reconcile the heavenly places (Colossians 1:25–27; Ephesians 3).
- The Mystery is not preached to every creature — it is taught to those who have believed the gospel and are established in their spiritual fitness.
 - Until a believer understands that they ARE spiritually fit (My Gospel), there is no basis for teaching what they are spiritually fit FOR (the Mystery).

Milk and Meat — 1 Corinthians 2–3

- At Corinth, Paul limited himself to “Jesus Christ and him crucified” for 18 months because the Corinthians were carnal and could not bear the meat of the Mystery (1 Corinthians 2:1–2; 3:1–3).
- The wisdom of God in a mystery is spoken only among those who are perfect — those established in the gospel (1 Corinthians 2:6–7).
 - This is why the epistles to Corinth lack the doctrines of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

The New Covenant and Christ as Mediator — 1 Timothy 2; Hebrews 8–9, 12

- 1 Timothy 2:4–7: God desires all men to be saved (My Gospel) AND to come to the knowledge of the truth (the Mystery) — both components in one passage.
- Christ as the one mediator gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time (1 Timothy 2:5–6) — Paul's revelation makes the New Covenant benefits available to all Gentiles.
- Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24 establish that Christ mediated a better covenant on better promises — what was spoken to Israel, Paul now declares freely available to all through his gospel.

Identity in Christ — Three Components

- Understanding the two-fold message unlocks the three components of your identity in Christ: justification, sanctification (My Gospel), and exaltation (the Mystery) — see the series “Our Identity in Christ.”

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

My Gospel vs. The Mystery of Christ

These are two distinct components of Paul's ministry, not one message. “My Gospel” (Romans 1–5; 16:25a) was promised through the Old Testament prophets, offers New Covenant justification and sanctification to every creature by faith, and is the means by which someone becomes a member of the Body of Christ. “The Mystery” (Ephesians 3; Colossians 1:25–27; Romans 16:25b) was hidden from all

prior ages, concerns God's purpose for the Body of Christ in the heavenly places, and is taught only to the saints who are established in the gospel. Conflating the two leads to misreading Paul's epistles and misunderstanding both salvation and the believer's calling.

Establishment (Milk) vs. Perfection (Meat)

Establishment refers to being grounded in Paul's gospel — understanding and operating on the reality of one's justification and sanctification. Perfection refers to going on to the full knowledge of the Mystery: who you are in God's plan and purpose as a member of the Body of Christ. The Corinthians were kept on milk because they had not yet grasped their spiritual fitness (1 Corinthians 3:1–3). Only when a believer is established can he be profitably taught what he has been made fit for.

Israel's Program vs. the Dispensation of Grace

The New Covenant was promised to Israel through the Old Testament prophets and was always Israel's by promise. However, God reserved his sovereign legal right to be merciful, compassionate, and gracious to whomever he chooses (Romans 9). Paul's gospel is the declaration that God has exercised that right in the Dispensation of Grace, making Gentiles beneficiaries of the New Covenant entirely on the basis of grace — not because it was promised to them, but because God chose to include them.

Justification, Sanctification, and Exaltation

Keith identifies three components to the believer's identity in Christ. Justification and sanctification are the spiritual fitness provided through Paul's gospel — they constitute what the New Covenant delivers when one believes. Exaltation is the purpose for which that fitness was given: the believer's role in God's plan to reconcile the heavenly places through the Body of Christ. My Gospel addresses the first two; the Mystery addresses the third. See the full series "Our Identity in Christ" at www.enjoythebible.org.

Key Scripture References

Romans 16:25	Paul cites both message components: "My Gospel" and "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery"
Romans 1:1–2	Paul's gospel described as the "gospel of God which he had promised afore by his prophets" — not the mystery
Romans 1:3–5	The gospel concerns Christ's Davidic lineage, resurrection, and God's Jehovah-ness put into effect; grace and apostleship for all nations
Colossians 1:12	"Giving thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" — spiritual fitness as gift
Colossians 1:21–27	Paul made minister of both: the gospel preached to every creature (v. 23) and the mystery made manifest to the saints (vv. 25–27)
1 Corinthians 2:1–2	Paul at Corinth determined to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified — limiting himself to My Gospel

1 Corinthians 2:6–7	The wisdom of God in a mystery spoken only among those who are perfect — not to the carnal
1 Corinthians 3:1–3	Paul could not speak to the Corinthians as spiritual but as carnal babes; fed milk, not meat
1 Timothy 2:4–7	God wills all men to be saved (gospel) and to come to the knowledge of the truth (mystery); Christ the one mediator; Paul ordained teacher of the Gentiles
Hebrews 8:6	Christ the mediator of a better covenant established upon better promises
Hebrews 9:15	Christ the mediator of the new testament; death for redemption of transgressions under the first testament
Hebrews 12:24	Jesus the mediator of the new covenant; blood of sprinkling speaking better things than Abel

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