

**Ephesians 6:20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Empowered with the immutable Word of God, evangelists and pastor-teachers must communicate with confidence. To do this each man must be occupied with Christ and have spiritual self-esteem because of constant opposition from those who hate the truth.

The evangelist and pastor-teacher must always communicate with confidence no matter what reception members of an audience might offer.

**Principle:** Once what I teach leaves my mouth, my job is done! What happens next is determined by the Law of Freedom possessed by each person in attendance.

Royal ambassadorship is obviously related to evangelism. This is universally assigned to every believer plus men with the spiritual gift of evangelist. The former witness through verbal communication of the gospel to those in his or her periphery. Men with the spiritual gift of evangelist function one-on-one or to groups.

Gary Watson has a tremendously successful ministry toward those who are incarcerated and that is having significant historical impact in penitentiaries, prisons, and jails.

Gary, too, cuts no slack for those who attend for an hour's escape from their otherwise miserable routine. If a person is obviously not positive and/or disruptive, he ushers them to the door.

I don't have to use that tactic. I can flush a negative person from the room just by teaching a boring Bible class.

The key each of us has on our side is the Greek word, **ἀλήθεια** (*alētheia*): "truth." This is a rare commodity in our society today. Few want to hear the truth but instead prefer to believe the lie.

We also are being observed by angels, both elect and fallen. The elect rejoice over the salvation of one sinner:

**Luke 15:10** "I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.



Fallen angels are deployed to resist the efforts of royal ambassadors:

**Ephesians 6:12** Our combat keeps on being not against blood and flesh but against demon generals, commissioned officers, ambassadors of darkness, and spirit forces of evil in the heavenlies. (EXT)

Ambassadors are always being observed by both elect and fallen angels. These observations are mentioned several times in Scripture:

**1 Corinthians 4:9** I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

**Ephesians 3:10** The manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

**1 Timothy 5:21** I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

Finally, it is especially interesting that the apostles, followed by prophets, evangelists, pastors-teachers, and believers in general (see Ephesians 4:11–12) were instructing elect angels who knew nothing about the Church Age and its theology:

**1 Peter 1:10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who predicted the grace that would come to you searched and investigated carefully.

**v. 11** They probed into what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when he testified beforehand about the sufferings appointed for Christ and His subsequent glory.

**v. 12** They were shown, through revelation, that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things now announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things angels long to catch a glimpse of. (NET)



## 6. Church Age believers have the unique mystery doctrines.

The English word mystery is the noun **μυστήριον (*mustérion*)**:  
“Secret or esoteric knowledge.”

**In the writings of Paul, the word *mustérion* is sometimes applied in a peculiar sense to the calling of the Gentiles. In Ephesians 3:3–6, the fact that Gentiles could be fellow-heirs and of the same body and partakers of Christ by the gospel is called “the mystery” and “the mystery of Christ.”<sup>2</sup>**

Paul refers to Church-Age doctrine as a mystery because its revelations were not revealed in the books of the Tanakh and therefore not known to the Jewish people. The New Testament reveals this information that was previously unknown but now revealed.

The major principle associated with the mystery is the imputation of divine power to the believer through the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit. Jesus prophesied this in:

**Acts 1:5** John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

**Acts 1:8** You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Paul’s writings on this subject are worth noting. In six of His epistles he uses the word seventeen times. Here are three pertinent to the subject of “mystery doctrines”:

**1 Corinthians 2:7** But we communicate God’s wisdom in a mystery [ (*mustérion*) ], the hidden assets which God predestined before the ages for the purpose of our glory. (EXT)

Doctrine is invisible and hidden. Those who inculcate it are invisible heroes. Those without doctrine have wrong priorities due to ignorance of mystery doctrine.

<sup>2</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, ed., “*mustérion*,” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993), 1000.



Knowledge is power. Paul's use of the noun *mustérion* refers to invisible power by the complete knowledge of revealed truth available only to those who study New Testament theology.

**Ephesians 3:9** ... to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God Who created all things;

**v. 10** so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Note that the Holy Spirit reveals doctrines that were unknown to Old Testament Jews but are revealed to the writers of the New Testament. The church is the facility in which these mysteries are communicated and made known.

This mystery is available only to a select group of people: (1) those who have placed their personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, (2) have confessed their sins to the Father, (3) are subsequently filled by the Holy Spirit, and (4) are concentrating on the communication of the Word of God by a pastor-teacher in a local church or by electronic contrivance.

**Matthew 13:10** The disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them [ large crowds standing on the beach ] in parables?"

**v. 11** Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted."

The mystery doctrines of the Church Age are based on the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies of the Tanakh. Isaiah 9:6–7 is prophetic of the virgin birth of Messiah, His ultimate reign in the Millennium on David's throne in perpetuity. This is addressed by Paul in:

**1 Timothy 3:16** By consent of all, great is the mystery [ Church Age revelation ] with reference to godliness [ εὐσέβεια (*eusébeia*) ]: the One Christ Who became visible by means of the flesh, was vindicated by means of the Holy Spirit, was carefully scrutinized by angels, was proclaimed among the nations, became the object of faith in the world, and was taken up to glory. (EXT)



The noun “godliness” sounds as if it means “god likeness,” however that simplification demands some analysis:

Although *eusébeia* in the New Testament is translated “godliness”, the word “God” is not in it. The word *eusébeia* literally means well-directed reverence, but does not imply an inward, inherent holiness. (p. 683)

When *eusébeia* is applied to the Christian life, it denotes a life that is acceptable to Christ, indicating the proper attitude of the believer toward Christ Who has saved him. It is in this manner that 1 Timothy 4:7 says, “Exercise thyself rather unto godliness.” It does not come automatically but is something into which we must put effort.

In 1 Timothy 3:16, we are told that *eusébeia* is a mystery. This refers to a holy life resulting from God’s incarnation in the person of Jesus Christ when that incarnation and all that it entails is truly believed. This is *eusébeia*, a holiness initiated in the life of the believer by Christ Himself through the Spirit.<sup>3</sup> (p. 684)

## 7. The Indwelling of the Trinity.

Church-Age believers enjoy the unique spiritual life related to the fact that all three persons of the Trinity actually indwell them.

### God the Father:

**Ephesians 4:6** One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

The final phrase, “in all,” refers to the indwelling of the Father.

### God the Son:

**Colossians 1:27** God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The phrase “in you” refers to Matthew 13:11 where the doctrine of the mysteries is introduced by the Lord which includes the indwelling of Jesus Christ:

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., “εὐσέβεια,” 683–84.



**A “mystery” or “secret” in Scripture is a previously hidden truth now divinely revealed. This chapter [Matthew 13] shows clearly for the first time that there will be an interval between Christ’s first and second advents.<sup>4</sup>**

In this paragraph, the *mystery* cited is, “the mystery of the indwelling Christ” (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:26–27).

### **God the Holy Spirit:**

**Romans 8:11** If the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.

There is a difference between the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit. The former emphasizes the believer’s body while the latter emphasizes the believer’s soul. Indwelling is irrevocable while the filling is revocable through carnality but restored through rebound.

### **8. Infinite energy and power belong to God.**

**2 Peter 1:3** His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him Who called us by His Own glory and excellence.

God has made His divine power available to every Church Age believer for the execution of the unique spiritual life: (1) the power of the Word of God circulating in our souls, (2) the unique assets of the Church Age, (3) the filling of the Holy Spirit, and (4) the function of the spiritual gifts.<sup>5</sup>

This divine power in the soul of believers is unique to the Church Age:

The omnipotence of the Father is related to our invisible assets some of which are noted in the preceding paragraph.

The omnipotence of Jesus Christ is related to the perpetuation of history and preservation of the universe:

<sup>4</sup> Scofield, “Mysteries in Scripture,” *The Scofield Study Bible*, 1330fn13:11.

<sup>5</sup> R. B. Thieme, Jr., *The Integrity of God*, 4th ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2005), 289.



**Colossians 1:16** For by means of Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, the visible things and invisible things, whether human governments or constituted authorities, or angelic rulers and authorities: all things through Him and for His purpose stand created.

**v. 17** He eternally existed before all things, and by means of Him all things hold together [ **gravity** ]. (EXT)

Jesus Christ will “hold all things together” until the end of human history, at which point His hold will be released and gravity will cease:

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord [ **destruction of the universe** ] will come like a thief, in which the heavens will disappear with a roar and the elements will be dissolved with intense heat, and the earth and its works [ **human good and evil** ] will be incinerated [ **no gravity** ].

**v. 11** Since in this way all things must be destroyed, what sort of person must you become in your spiritual life,

**v. 12** while looking forward with confidence and the hastening of the coming of the day of God, in which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat?

**v. 13** But on the basis of His promise [ **of better things in the eternal state** ] we are looking forward with confidence to new heavens and a new earth [ **the Eternal State** ] in which perfect righteousness dwells.

**v. 14** Therefore, beloved, since we are looking forward with confidence for these things, be self-motivated to be found in Him in a state of tranquility, spotless and blameless. (EXT)

The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit is related to the operational divine power system.

