

Occasionally, it is used for a section of time in chronology, which then refers to a dispensation. In Romans 16:25, *chrónos* is used for all dispensations prior to the Church Age. Peter also used this word for dispensations in 1 Peter 1:20. So this word is used three ways:

- a. Time in its course.
- b. A section of time, i.e., a dispensation.
- c. A point of time.

C. Dispensations are a Biblical subject.

Ephesians 1:8 he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight.

v. 9 He did this when he revealed to us the secret of his will according to his good pleasure that set forth in Christ,

v. 10 toward the administration of the fullness of times, to head up all things in Christ—the things in heaven and the things on earth.

Ephesians 3:1 For this reason, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

v. 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you. (NET)

- a. Though a fantastic genius, Paul could not have understood this dispensation on his own. This mystery had to be a matter of revelation in order for him to understand it. This knowledge was given to him, as it is to us, through grace.
- b. Dispensational study is beneficial. It will keep you out of confusion. It will from to function in the wrong dispensation.

Ephesians 3:3 “that by revelation the divine secret was made known to me, as I wrote before briefly was made known to me, just as I have already written you briefly.

v. 4 By reading this, you ought to be able to understand my technical knowledge about the mystery of Christ.” (NET)

- c. The dispensation of the Church is a technical dispensation. It requires understanding technical words and knowing the *modus operandi*. This is the first time in history that the ordinary believer must think in terms of doctrine, must think like a prophet or an apostle, and must reconstruct his entire mental attitude.
- d. Therefore, every believer is given the ability to think through the filling of the Holy Spirit, and is given the complete Canon as the information about which to think. In order to think you must know the doctrine and be able to think in terms of its application. You think for yourself and do not need others to think for you.



Ephesians 3:5 Now this secret was not disclosed to people in former generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. (NET)

- e. “Now” is the time! Now is the greatest opportunity in history. You have been given more invisible assets to become an invisible hero than has ever existed!
- f. So what Paul and the other apostles started communicating in the first century is now the major issue in your life. Whether you will have a significant life or not, whether you save this nation by your advance to spiritual maturity all depends on what you think now.

Ephesians 3:8 “To me, the very least of all the saints, this grace has been given to proclaim to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ **v. 9** and to enlighten everyone about God’s secret plan—a secret that has been hidden for the ages in God who has created all things.

Colossians 1:25 I became a servant of the church according to the stewardship from God —given to me for you—in order to complete the word of God, (NET)

- a. Paul was a minister of this dispensation. Because he oriented to the dispensation in which he lived, Paul probably had the greatest invisible impact and the happiest life of any person who ever lived.
- b. As Saul of Tarsus, he started out to be one of the greatest visible leaders of all time, but became the greatest invisible leader of all time. Because after his salvation, God in His matchless grace not only gave him the gift of apostleship, but at the same time He revealed to him the facts of the time in which he lived. Paul, more than anyone else outside of the Lord, understood the relationship between the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union and the great power experiment of the Church Age. Hence, he understood more than anyone else the importance of Bible doctrine.
- c. Ministers should only be visible to the extent that they teach Bible doctrine. Those who do not teach Bible doctrine have the tendency to try to become visible by means of human dynamics. There is no place in the plan of God for the coexistence of human dynamics with the omnipotence of God.
- d. Note the same phrase here as in Eph 3:1: “The dispensation from God which was given to me for your benefit.”
- e. We are born again with a deficiency: Bible doctrine. You are deficient until you understand the mystery doctrine. Col 1:26, “That is, the mystery which has been hidden from past dispensations and generations [within those dispensations], but now has been revealed to the saints [royal family of God].”



- f. The mystery doctrine of the Church Age was never revealed in the Old Testament, for they would have been distracted with envy.
- g. As royal family of God, you have greater privileges than ever existed before; the greatest plan of all history. Colossians 1:27, “To whom God has decreed to make known what is the wealth [riches] of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you [indwelling of Christ], the hope [confidence] of glory.”
- h. You actually have the greatest individual wealth ever given to believers in any time of human history. Without understanding the mystery doctrine, you are wealthy without knowing it.
- i. “The glory” is Jesus Christ Himself, who set up all precedence for this dispensation during the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union.
- j. Paul names just one of the many aspects to your wealth: “Christ in you.” This refers to the indwelling of Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory and the guarantee of your escrow blessings.
- k. Hope means very strong confidence. Christ in you is your confidence of glory! You have a glory that is found in immeasurable wealth, in the things God has provided for you in your portfolio of invisible assets. Colossians 1:28, “Which we solemnly communicate, warning and teaching every believer in all wisdom, that we might present every believer mature in Christ.”
- l. Solemn here is used in the sense of being important, requiring concentration. It also means to explain the technical details. To explain something technical, the listener must concentrate. This also means to keep teaching, being consistent in learning mystery doctrine, i.e., what is God’s plan, purpose, and will for you in this Church Age.
- m. “Warnings” are such statements as: You will be a loser if you miss out on this! The nation will go under unless you get with God’s plan! You will have a miserable, frustrated life unless you learn these things! You never teach in a solemn manner without warning of the consequences of rejecting the information.
- n. “Wisdom” means the one who teaches must know his information.
- o. The pastor-teacher must present the members of his congregation at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Yet his job is to present you mature in Christ!

Colossians 1:29 “Toward this goal I also labor, struggling according to his power that powerfully works in me.” (NET)

