

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 1 – “Of the Holy Scriptures”, Message # 22 –
“Do You Understand Mysteries?”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 8th, 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.”

2nd Timothy 3: 15-17 Galatians 1: 8, 9 John 6: 45 1st Corinthians 11: 13, 14 1st 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.

Proverbs 4: 18 – “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”

We are told here that the path that all righteous persons, all just persons, walk upon a path. This path is itself like the shining sun, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day, or perfect day. The day is the day of our death, and in the ultimate sense, it is the day of our Lord’s Return. The path is the path of righteousness. And the definition of righteousness is found in the Scriptures in terms of all of the moral commandments found in God’s word. I believe that this light, shining ever brighter, is the bright shining of the light of the Holy Spirit, illuminating our minds and hearts, showing us in relation to the Scriptures, how we can grow up into Christ and how we may become mature if we will respond to the truth of the Scriptures, which He the Holy Spirit has shined His glorious light upon. He is guiding us into all the truth. He is shining and illumining our minds to it. But this also means that we have been given an implied responsibility. Are we acting upon the light that we are being given, so as to be transformed in a mature, wise, righteous and holy Christian, in this wonderful way, from one degree of glory to another?

Ephesians chapter 1, verses 13-23 – “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Paul prayed this way knowing that the believers in the church of Ephesus were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, as it says in verse 13 of chapter 1. Even though every believer has the Holy Spirit, he still prays that the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened to the truth; specifically here, that they might know the hope of God's calling them, and that they were loved as God's inheritance. They needed to know, and we need to know, that the reason that Jesus went to the cross, and the reason that He had to suffer and die, was to purchase our salvation. It was because He purchased the whole of our salvation at the cross, that the gift of the Holy Spirit could be given to everyone who believes, and the blessings of salvation could then be applied to each one of God's elect, believing people, really and actually, not hypothetically.

In past studies I have tried to show you that in regard to the apostles, that though they did not understand the Scriptures very well until just before Pentecost, when Jesus opened their minds to them. Yet after Pentecost, when the Spirit was given to the apostles in a greater way of light and spiritual power, they found that they had the power to preach and the power to do good works in a mighty way; a way which enabled the cause and kingdom of Christ to go forward.

Since they had this much greater understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures, it gave them greater confidence, not because they had simply studied the Scriptures, but because they were revealed to them, they were now in a position to write the New Testament Scriptures by the direct and infallible Inspiration of the Spirit's moving them, and guiding them in their doing this.

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 here that it is sometimes not that well understood by all 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. And, for each and every Christian it takes the Holy Spirit revealing to them more about the whole doctrine of regeneration and the sovereignty of God in salvation. It is absolutely necessary it is to have the root of the matter in yourself, as it says in verse 17 of Mark 4. And, it is absolutely necessary that

a Christian take heed what 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.