

THE DEVIL AND THE MYSTERY

Copyist note: The Booklet “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” 1st Edition, by Dr. H. A. Ironside about which the author is writing can be found on this CD.

First a few statements concerning:

“ULTRA” DISPENSATIONALISM

After we have been saved by the infinite grace of the God of all grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, redeemed by His precious shed blood, we are to desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow thereby. I Peter 2:1 and 2. Then we are to go from the milk of the Word to the meat of the Word: “For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age.” Hebrews 5:13 and 14.

In order that we might study and apply the Scriptures intelligently we must know to which particular company of Bible saints we belong. We do not live in that period which the Bible designates “from Adam to Moses,” “when there is no law.” Romans 5:13 and 14. For more than 2,000 years of that period there was no nation “Israel.” About 1,500 B.C. God placed Israel under the law. Certainly we are not Israelites under the law. We certainly do not live in the same period with those disciples who lived during the few years of the earthly ministry of the Son of man before His death, when He announced Israel's prophesied kingdom at hand.

Any one who acknowledges that Israel lived under the old dispensation and we, as members of the Body of Christ, live under a new and different dispensation, and so interprets and applies the Scriptures, is a “dispensationalist.”

No person can intelligently interpret, appropriate and apply the Holy Scriptures who fails to recognize that there is a difference between the hope and calling of members of the Body of Christ who are looking for the glorious appearing of Christ, the Head, to appear with Him in glory, and the hope and calling of Israel, God's holy nation, called out of Egypt into Canaan. The Body of Christ in I Timothy 3:15 and 16 is called “The House of God,” “The Mystery,” God's holy nation is called “The House of Israel.” There is a great difference between “The House of Israel” and “The House of God,” described in I Timothy 3 and in the Epistle to the Ephesians.

No Christian can understand the structure of the Bible and study its contents intelligently, with joy and satisfaction, who does not learn, first, when “The House of Israel” had its historical beginning; second, when the Lord brought to an end His spiritual program for “The House of Israel,” and when “The House of God (The Body)” had its historic beginning. Then he must know wherein God's spiritual program for “The Body of Christ” differs from His program for “The House of Israel.”

According to the opinion of the Postmillenarians all Premillenarians are “ultra” or “hyper” “dispensationalists.” Moreover, some Premillenarians judge other Premillenarians to be “ultra,” “hyper” or “extreme” dispensationalists. The fundamental difference between the so-called conservative Premillennial “dispensationalists” and the radical Premillennial “dispensationalists” is the matter of fixing the date as to when “The House of Israel” was set aside and “The House of God (The Body)” had its historical beginning. The conservative says, “on or before the day of Pentecost of Acts 2.” The “ultra” says, “some years thereafter,” when

the Lord in heaven had revealed to the Apostle Paul “the gospel of the grace of God.” Ephesians 3:1. The farther on from Pentecost the “ultra” fixes the date of the beginning of God's reign of grace the more “ultra” he is in the judgment of the “dispensationalist” who teaches that “The House of Israel” had been set aside before the Pentecost of Acts 2, when the conservative dispensationalist declares the Body of Christ began.

These so-called conservative “dispensationalists” have “the dispensation of the grace of God” and “the dispensation of the mystery” (Ephesians 3:1 to 9) begin with Peter and Pentecost instead of with Paul, after his name was changed from Saul. The regular Premillennial “dispensationalist” brands the Premillenarians who begin “the mystery” “dispensation” with Paul instead of with Peter, “ultradispensationalists” or “Bullingerites.” Sometimes he finds more difficulty in proving by the Bible that his “ultradispensationalism” is faulty, than he does in calling him names, to the delight of other Premillenarians in the “regular” camp. Those who begin “the new dispensation” with Peter, without adequate Scriptural proof, affirm that the teachings of those who proclaim their convictions that the new “grace dispensation” began with Paul, and not with Peter, are divisive and cause divisions.

Perhaps you would like to join with us in asking some questions of the “dispensationalists” who state today that we are living in the very same dispensation which began with Peter and Pentecost. They acknowledge that the first Church, which began with the Twelve was the ideal Church. They even teach that it is the Church of Revelation 2:1. They hold it up before Christians today as the pattern Church. They call it “the apostolic Church,” “the Acts Church.”

We all acknowledge that their program as to message, practice, miracles, signs, and visions was given by the Lord, that is, the program of the “Pentecost” church.

One question we would ask of these “dispensationalists” who begin with Peter: “why do you wholly ignore and make no attempt to preach or practice or experience more than three-fourths of all that was included in the spiritual program of the “Acts” Church, beginning with the “tongues,” “the message of Acts 2:38,” “the disposition of property and money,” “the conversation with angels,” “the imposing of hands,” “the sign gifts,” and more than forty “other things” in God's spiritual program?”

Surely our dispensationalism should be sufficiently “ultra” or sufficiently Scriptural and sane to definitely and intelligently prove that the “Acts” program is, or is not, for the obedience and practice of members of the Body of Christ governed by “the dispensation of the grace of God.”

If this particular age, in which the Lord is dealing with the human race in unmixed grace, began on the day of Pentecost, then we should use God's Divine principle to select from the “Acts” period that which belongs to God's spiritual program for members of the Body of Christ, and eliminate that which has had no place in that program since the close of the “Acts” period. If the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to the Apostle Paul his program of grace, which is exclusively for this period, then all who live in this exclusive period should interpret, appropriate and apply the doctrines and practices of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as well as those of the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms, in the light of Christ's grace revelation to and through the Apostle Paul. If you do this you will be called an “ultra dispensationalist,” but you will be a wise dispensationalist.

THE MYSTERY AND THE DEVIL

Most Christians know more about the devil than they know about “THE MYSTERY.” Even so, they do not know anymore about the devil than they should know. They should know more about him, so they can truthfully say, with Paul, “we are not ignorant of his devices.” II Corinthians 2:11. Certainly every Christian should know more about “THE MYSTERY.” God wants every Christian to know “THE MYSTERY” and to make it known to others. Ephesians 3:9. You say, “then it would no longer be “The Mystery.” Certainly not. Why after nearly 1900 years should this Divine Truth still be a mystery so far as ninety-nine per cent of God's people are concerned? Can you answer this question? It is true that the devil doesn't want any one to understand or even study this Divine Truth. But is not God's will to be desired by Christians more than Satan's? Doesn't God's power exceed the devil's power? Satan is mighty. God is almighty. Genuine spiritual Christians know that God's power exceeds Satan's power.

But let's take an inventory. As we take in the world-wide political situation, the distress of nations, with even the so-called Christian nations on the verge of bankruptcy and destruction, we may wonder that Satan has such power after 1900 years of Christianity. But we believe that Satan knew what he was talking about in Luke 4:6 when he told the Lord Jesus that the kingdoms of the world were under his control. The Lord was right when He called Satan, “the prince of this world.”

When we consider the eighteen hundred million people of the world religiously, and see what the devil has done to them, surely we give a hearty “Amen” to the statement of I John 5:19, “the whole world lieth in the evil one.” In his tricks to keep sinners away from the saving gospel of Christ. Satan is called “the god of this age.” II Corinthians 4:3 and 4. To accomplish his purpose with people who want some kind of a so-called Christian religion, the devil transforms himself into an angel of light and instructs his servants to pretend that they are missionaries of Christ. II Corinthians 11:13 to 15.

Then let us consider what the devil has done with Church-members who are actually members of Christ's Body, God's one and only Church today. Note God's instructions in Ephesians 4:3 to 6:

“ENDEAVORING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE. THERE IS ONE BODY, AND ONE SPIRIT EVEN AS YE ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING: ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM. ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL, AND THROUGH ALL, AND IN YOU ALL.”

Meditate—“The unity of the Spirit.” Where is it found? One faith, one hope of your calling, one baptism. One Body. How many sects and denominations? Several hundred. How many bodies? One Body. Note Ephesians 1:20 to 23:

“Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies. Far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, AND GAVE HIM TO BE THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY, THE FULNESS OF HIM THAT FILLETH ALL IN ALL.”

Christ is in the heavenlies. Christ is the one Head of His one and only Church, which is His Body, “the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.”

No matter how loyal, zealous sectarians may defend and contend for their denominational churches, the student of the Word of God knows that “denominationalism” is absolutely unscriptural. There is one and only one true Bible Church and that Bible Church is denominated,

“The Body of Christ, the fullness of Him that filleth All in All.” In Ephesians 3:6 that one church is called the “Joint-Body” (see the Greek).

Members of Christ's Body are seated with Christ in the heavenlies and are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. Ephesians 2:6 and 1:3. One reason why God wants all men to see “The Mystery” is expressed in Ephesians 3:10 and 11:

“TO THE INTENT THAT NOW UNTO THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN THE HEAVENLIES MIGHT BE KNOWN BY THE CHURCH THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD, ACCORDING TO THE ETERNAL PURPOSE WHICH HE PURPOSED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.”

The Mystery then is Divine Truth concerning “the heavenlies” and “according to the eternal purpose which God purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” By searching the Scriptures we find that this Divine Message was not in fulfillment of prophecy, but was a spiritual program predestinated by God before the foundation of the world.

We have seen how Satan works politically as “the prince of this world;” how, as “the god of this age,” he blinds the unbeliever to keep him from believing the gospel of salvation. In Ephesians 6:11 to 20 we learn of Satan's spiritual wickedness IN THE HEAVENLIES, his opposition to the message and the messenger of “The Mystery,” Divine Truth concerning “the heavenlies.” Note Ephesians 6:11 and 12:

“PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AND POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD. AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES.” (In the heavenlies).

And Ephesians 6:19 and 20:

“AND FOR ME, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN UNTO ME, THAT I MAY OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY, TO MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN BONDS: THAT THEREIN I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK:”

Why was Paul a prisoner in Rome? Hear his own words: “FOR THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL.” Read this in Colossians 4:3 and 4. Hear again his testimony in Ephesians 3:1 to 3:

“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words).”

Note God's words in Ephesians 3:9:

“AND TO MAKE ALL MEN SEE WHAT IS THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HATH BEEN HID IN GOD.”

Here we see “the dispensation of the grace of God” and “the dispensation of The Mystery” are linked together. This glorious truth was made known by revelation to the apostle Paul, who became the prisoner of Jesus Christ for Gentiles. Do we appreciate what he suffered for us? Let's get into the Book and try to understand the message for which he suffered.

While Paul knew that religious men were opposed to “the Mystery” and were determined that he should not preach that Divine Truth, he knew that he was not wrestling against flesh and blood; that his real opponent was the devil as the ruler of world darkness in the heavenlies.

Paul wrote in II Corinthians 4:3 and 4 that Satan blinded minds. But note his request for a very specific prayer in Ephesians 1:17 and 18:

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

Paul did not want minds blinded to “the Mystery.” He knew that it required a special spirit of wisdom and revelation to comprehend that particular glorious Truth.

The devil today is determined that God's people shall not have the eyes of their understanding enlightened so that they might understand “The Mystery.” God wants all men to see “the dispensation of the Mystery.” Ephesians 3:9. Satan wants no one to see it. Satan for the most part is having his way.

Of course we would expect loyal denominationalists, zealous sectarians, to oppose this glorious message, for it is decidedly against all sectarianism. The Mystery is God's remedy for the “Sectarian” malady, and for all the other “isms” and ills with which the Body of Christ is afflicted. Most certainly the undenominational “grace” preachers among the Fundamentalists should not oppose this glorious Divine Truth. It is sad, but true, that many such preachers are the bitter opponents of “The Mystery” and use their efforts to keep their followers from seeing “the dispensation of the Mystery,” which God wants all to see.

In recent years several of the presidents and leaders of organized Fundamentalists have warned their hearers against listening to preachers who speak of “The Mystery.” Their orders have been, “do not listen to them over the radio”, “do not read their books”. Why?

One of these leaders, who during the past few years has bitterly opposed men of God who have faithfully endeavored to make “The Mystery” known, is the author of several books in which he himself taught concerning “The Mystery”, some truth which he is now opposing with a vengeance. He calls the messengers with whom he now disagrees “Bullingerites”, “Bullinger and his ilk”, “unspiritual theorists”, “ecclesiastical hobby-riders” and several other names. He does this in one of his latest books, “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth”. In this book he plainly opposes his own teaching in his other books concerning “The Mystery”. More recently he has printed a new “preface” to his latest edition of “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth”, stating that he still believes, concerning “The Mystery”, what is printed in all his books. Moreover, he has written me a personal letter that he believes, concerning this Divine message, what he has taught orally during the past forty years and he has not changed his mind concerning his statements in all his books.

Note several statements concerning “The Mystery”, quoted from his writings:

“THROUGHOUT THE WRITINGS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL HE AGAIN AND AGAIN REFERS TO A WONDROUS SECRET, WHICH HE DESIGNATES IN A SPECIAL WAY AS “THE MYSTERY,” OR “THE GREAT MYSTERY.” “THAT A DOCTRINE SO CLEARLY REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES COULD HAVE BECOME SO UTTERLY LOST IS ONLY TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE JUDAIZING OF THE CHURCH, AND THE CONSEQUENT MINDING OF EARTHLY THINGS THAT BECLOUDED THE HEAVENLY ONES.” “IT IS THE CAPSTONE OF SCRIPTURE TEACHING.” “NOW IF THE MYSTERY BE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH TO OBEY, IT IS CERTAINLY OF VAST IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY CHILD OF GOD BE INSTRUCTED AS TO ITS TRUE CHARACTER.” “THE MYSTERY IS THE GREAT TRUTH THAT COMPLETES THE WORD OF GOD.” “THE MYSTERY WAS NOT SOMETHING OF DIFFICULT,

MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER, BUT A SACRED SECRET NEVER KNOWN TO MANKIND UNTIL IN DUE TIME OPENED UP BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE APOSTLE PAUL.” “HOW EARNEST WAS THE APOSTLE IN SEEKING TO LEAD CHRISTIANS INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS BLESSED TRUTH.”

The Mystery is precious Truth. Paul was very earnest in endeavoring to lead Christians into the knowledge of this precious Truth. Every Christian leader should be earnest in this task, and I should be earnest. Certainly all Fundamentalists should be earnest in this matter. But first they should stop, consider and count the cost. Many have done this; and therefore are keeping silent. See what it cost Paul:

“WITHAL PRAYING ALSO FOR US, THAT GOD WOULD OPEN UNTO US A DOOR OF UTTERANCE, TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, FOR WHICH I AM ALSO IN BONDS: THAT I MAY MAKE IT MANIFEST, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.” Colossians 4:3 and 4. “WHEREIN I SUFFER TROUBLE AS AN EVIL DOER, EVEN UNTO BONDS; BUT THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT BOUND. II Timothy 2:9.

The author of the books, to which we have referred, is the pastor of one of the largest Christian assemblies in this country. By his own written testimony he should be seeking to lead them into the knowledge of “the mystery”, which he calls “precious truth”. In his “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” he has so garbled this precious Truth that the reader can neither learn anything about “The Mystery”, nor learn what the writer believes concerning this precious Truth. If this pastor preaches to the members of his assembly what he has printed in his book, and if they believe it, they will not only remain ignorant of “The Mystery”, but they will despise men who endeavor to make it known.

In one of his other books the pastor wrote:

“Doubtless the devil thought he had gained a great advantage when he shut Paul up in prison, but from that prison cell came at least four of the great Church Epistles, and some of the pastoral letters, which have been the means of untold blessing to millions throughout the centuries.”

Yes, the devil succeeded in getting Paul in jail for “The Mystery”, bound as an evil doer unto chains. But from his prison cell Paul wrote “the Word of God is not bound.”

The devil wanted no believer to understand “The Mystery” in Paul's day, or even hear about it. The devil has not changed in this respect. The pastor, to whom we referred, is a gifted leader, very influential among Fundamentalists. Many preachers decide by his decisions, interpret by his interpretations. Therefore, humanly speaking, he could be instrumental in getting many believers established in the “Mystery Truth”, if he would emphasize, in his teachings, what he has printed in some of his writings.

We are agreed that a Christian preacher has the right to change his teachings concerning Bible doctrines. He has the right to say, I erred in my former writings, but, inasmuch as this brother declares that he believes every statement contained in all his books, we are copying some of the statements for your examination.

Keep in mind what he wrote on page 57, in “The Mysteries of God”

“THIS IS THE MYSTERY; GLORIOUS, INCONCEIVABLY GRAND, AND TRANSCENDENTLY WONDERFUL:”

Then on page 174, in “Lectures on Romans” he wrote concerning the manifestation of The Mystery:

“This was not until Israel had been given every opportunity to receive Christ both in INCARNATION AND RESURRECTION:”

We do want to emphasize this statement printed by our brother, that Israel had the opportunity to receive Christ in RESURRECTION. Remember, he declared he still holds to the teaching printed in these books. In “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” he ridicules the person who teaches that Israel was given the opportunity to receive Christ in RESURRECTION.

Every servant of the Lord should know that the recovery of God's Eternal Truth, which for centuries has been covered up by sectarian religious programs and human traditions, is of such importance that the task should not be avoided or hindered even if some fellow-saint's pride is wounded or his feelings are hurt.

I heartily agree with the brother whose writings we are examining, in these two of his statements:

“If I set at naught any fellow-believer I am to that extent failing to keep this unity.”
“There is one Body and I know of no other. Nor does this result in unkind feelings or hard critical thought concerning others equally dear to Christ, who may not be enlightened upon this great mystery. The very fact that we are all members one of another should hinder this.”

In spite of these statements, in “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” he called fellow-members of Christ's Body “unspiritual theorists”, “ecclesiastical hobby-riders”, “Bullinger and his ilk”, because they disagree with his “dispensationalism”. In the same book he writes, “I do not desire to belittle any of them.” But he does. Why? Because they disagree with his interpretation of “the dispensation of the Mystery” as set forth in his new book. There he dogmatically affirms that that dispensation began with Peter and Pentecost. Those whom he calls naughty names dogmatically affirm that it began some years thereafter when Christ gave to the apostle Paul a new “grace” program, a new and different dispensation.

The strange thing is, that this brother, who, in “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth”, so bitterly opposes the teaching that the new dispensation began with Paul, wrote in his other books, which he declares is his belief today:

“It is a special revelation given not to the twelve, but to him as THE APOSTLE OF THE NEW DISPENSATION:” “It was a ministry committed to him to pass on to saints.”

Because we are sure that this leader among God's people has prejudiced many Christians against the Truth that he once considered “precious” and which he declared should be known by every saint, we are printing his statements in “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth”, to show the contradictions, repudiations and denials of his statements printed in his other books.

In his new “preface” of the latest edition of “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” he denies that there are any such discrepancies. You will find in that book his own words, page 66, “I speak as unto wise men, judge ye what I say.” So you be a wise man and judge what he says.

We quote first from his other writings:

Statement Number One

“Throughout the writings of the Apostle Paul he again and again refers to a wonderful secret, which he designates in a special way as “the mystery,” or “the great mystery.”

“For centuries it was almost entirely lost sight of. In fact, until brought to the fore through the writings and the preaching and teaching of a distinguished ex-clergyman, Mr. J. N. Darby, in the early part of the last century, it is scarcely to be found in a single book or sermon throughout a period of sixteen hundred years.”

“Of ordinances exalted to the place of mysteries, as in heathen rites, he will find much; but as to the mystery, which to the apostle was so unspeakably precious, rarely a reference.”

“That a doctrine so clearly revealed in the Scriptures could have become so utterly lost is only to be accounted for by the Judaizing of the Church, and the consequent minding of earthly things that beclouded the heavenly ones.”

Statement Number Two

“Now if the mystery be for those who have faith to obey, it is certainly of vast importance that every child of God be instructed as to its true character.”

Statement Number Three

“There is one Body and I know of no other. Nor does this result in unkind feelings or hard critical thought concerning others, equally dear to Christ, who pray not be enlightened upon this great mystery. The very fact that we are all members one of another should hinder this.”

Statement Number Four

“Let the reader not fall into a mistake very commonly made today. The kingdom is not the Church. The latter is the Body of Christ, composed of all who, in this dispensation, are called out from Jew and Gentile, and baptized in the power of the Holy Spirit. During the period in which God is doing this special work of His grace the kingdom, properly speaking, is in abeyance.”

Statement Number Five

“The rejection of Messiah has caused God—not to cancel His promises made to the fathers of the Hebrews, but—to bring to light hidden purposes, hitherto unrevealed, of grace for the Gentiles during a period of undefined duration.”

Statement Number Six

“While Messiah is on the Father's throne and the people of Israel are rejected because of their refusal of their King, God is displaying the hidden purpose of His heart in bringing in of ‘a new thing in the earth,’ even the mystical body of His Son to share with Him all the glories He is yet to enter upon, when the regular line of prophecy is taken up.”

Statement Number Seven

“The mystery” was not something of difficult, mysterious character, but a sacred secret never known to mankind until in due time opened up by the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul.”

“It was not hid in the Scriptures to be brought to light eventually: but we are distinctly told it was hid in God until such time as He chose to manifest it.”

“This was not until Israel had been given every opportunity to receive Christ both in incarnation and resurrection. When they definitely refused Him God made known what had been in His heart from eternity, that from all nations, Jews and Gentiles, He would redeem and take out an elect company who would, by the Spirit's baptism, be formed into one Body.”

Statement Number Eight

“The mystery formed no part of the revelation of the previous dispensations. Had it been otherwise, Paul could not rightly have written that it was ‘kept secret since the world began.’ It

was part of the good news he was commissioned to publish abroad but he learned it not from the former Scriptures, but by direct revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ in glory.”

Statement Number Nine

“It is a passage of wondrous scope and blessedness, and I cannot attempt to expound it here, but what I would have the young believer note is that the truth of Jew and Gentile being formed by the Spirit into one body, upon being born of God, and by that same Spirit being linked up to Christ as Head in heaven, was a truth never before made known. The old Testament will be searched in vain for it. It is not there because it was “hid in God.” It was the secret Purpose of His heart, only to be revealed after the rejection of His Son:”

Statement Number Ten

“The mystery is made known in the prophetic writings of the apostle himself. He was the chosen vessel to whom alone it was given to set it forth ‘for the obedience of faith’.”

Statement Number Eleven

“The whole counsel of God was not made known until Paul received this revelation of the mystery.”

“It was a special revelation given not to the twelve, but to him as the apostle of the new dispensation.”

Statement Number Twelve

“The mystery then is not simply centered in the term ‘Body’ but whatever expression may be used, the mystery is that during the present age all distinction between believing Jews and believing Gentiles is done away in Christ.”

Statement Number Thirteen

“The mystery of the Church, as the Body of Christ was never made known in Old Testament times, nor yet in the days when our Lord was on the earth. We are told distinctly it had been ‘hid from ages and generations, but now is made manifested to the saints.’ The Divine method of making it known was by a special revelation to the apostle Paul, as he tells us in Ephesians 3. But this revelation was not for him only. It was a ministry committed to him to pass on to the saints.”

Statement Number Fourteen

“How earnest was the apostle in seeking to lead Christians into the knowledge of this precious truth.”

Statement Number Fifteen

“But this doctrine of the one body is never referred to by any other apostle than Paul. He calls it ‘the dispensation of the mystery’ which he had especially been entrusted with.”

“It was the secret purpose of His heart only to be revealed after the rejection of His Son.”

Statement Number Sixteen

“Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles and as such he magnified his office. He was not the apostle to the Hebrews.”

Statement Number Seventeen .

“To the epistles of Paul alone do we turn for the revelation of this mystery. He was the special vessel chosen to make known the heavenly calling. The twelve were, as we have seen connected primarily with the testimony to Israel. Paul, as one born out of due time, was selected to be the messenger to the nations, announcing the distinctive truths of the present dispensation.”

Statement Number Eighteen

(Concerning Ephesians 3:1 to 3)

“This is the fullest declaration, or unfolding, of this precious and wondrous mystery that we have in all the Bible. It is so plain that one would suppose that every spiritual mind must see at once to what it refers. Yet the commentators and expositors generally are content to make it mean that in the present age God is extending to the Gentiles the same grace He offers the Jew, so that the former, by closing with his offer of grace, becomes a sharer in the kingdom promised to Israel.”

Statement Number Nineteen

(Concerning Colossians 1:24. to 27)

“What is especially insisted on here is that the mystery is the great truth that completes the Word of God.”

“It is the capstone of Scripture teaching, as the Cross is the foundation-stone of the gospel. Christ is now working among the Gentiles, while rejected by Israel. This, the Old Testament did not contemplate.”

“Mysteries of God” pages 50 and 51-52-45-59-52-52-74-56-57.

“Notes on Esther” page 117.

“Lectures on Romans” page 174.

“Sailing With Paul” pages 40 and 45.

“Lectures on Colossians” pages 57-58-59-17.

In the quotations above let us emphasize several statements which are statements of facts:

1. TO THE EPISTLES OF PAUL ALONE DO WE TURN FOR THE REVELATION OF THIS MYSTERY. IT WAS PAUL WHO WAS ANNOUNCING THE DISTINCTIVE TRUTHS OF THE PRESENT DISPENSATION.
2. THE MYSTERY FORMED NO PART OF THE PREVIOUS DISPENSATIONS. PAUL LEARNED IT NOT FROM THE FORMER SCRIPTURES, BUT BY DIRECT REVELATION FROM THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN GLORY.
3. IT IS OF VAST IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY CHILD OF GOD BE INSTRUCTED AS TO ITS TRUE CHARACTER.
4. PAUL WAS THE CHOSEN VESSEL TO WHOM ALONE THE MYSTERY WAS GIVEN, TO SET IT FORTH.
5. THE MYSTERY IS THE GREAT TRUTH THAT COMPLETES THE WORD OF GOD.
6. THE MYSTERY WAS NOT SOMETHING OF DIFFICULT MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER, BUT A SACRED SECRET NEVER KNOWN TO MANKIND UNTIL IN DUE TIME OPENED UP BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE

- APOSTLE PAUL. THIS WAS NOT UNTIL ISRAEL WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY IN RESURRECTION TO RECEIVE CHRIST. THE MYSTERY WAS THE SECRET PURPOSE OF GOD'S HEART ONLY TO BE REVEALED AFTER THE REJECTION OF HIS SON.
7. THE DOCTRINE OF THE ONE BODY—THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY—IS NEVER REFERRED TO BY ANY OTHER APOSTLE THAN PAUL.
 8. THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST WAS NEVER MADE KNOWN IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES, NOR YET WHEN OUR LORD WAS ON EARTH. IT WAS HID. THE DIVINE METHOD OF MAKING IT KNOWN WAS BY A SPECIAL REVELATION TO THE APOSTLE PAUL, COMMITTED TO HIM TO PASS ON TO THE SAINTS.
 9. THE KINGDOM IS NOT THE CHURCH. DURING THE CHURCH PERIOD, THE KINGDOM, PROPERLY SPEAKING, IS SET ASIDE.
 10. IT WAS A SPECIAL REVELATION GIVEN, NOT TO THE TWELVE, BUT TO PAUL AS THE APOSTLE OF THE NEW DISPENSATION.

Before commenting on these statements, note the writer's definition of a dispensation on Page 6 in “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth”

“A dispensation then is a period of time in which God is dealing with men in some way in which He has not dealt with them before. Moreover there may be degrees of revelation.”
“ONLY WHEN A NEW REVELATION FROM GOD IS GIVEN, DOES A DISPENSATION CHANGE.”

Then on page 25 of “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth,” the writer declares that “the dispensation of the mystery” of Ephesians 3:9 began on the day of Pentecost. That day Peter was preaching to devout Jews from every nation under heaven.

Paul ALONE received the revelation of The Mystery. That was a new revelation A dispensation begins with a new revelation. Peter didn't receive it. Paul alone received it. And yet the brother declares that “the dispensation of the mystery” began with Peter and Pentecost.

You say, “what a plain contradiction.” This is only one of many. Personally I do not agree with the teaching of Dr. E. W. Bullinger that the Body of Christ had its historic beginning after the close of the “Acts” period, that then The Mystery began. But we should all agree that the clear revelation of The Mystery or explanation of The Mystery is in Ephesians Colossians and II Timothy, written after the close of the “Acts” period. I do not at all accept the extreme dispensationalism of Dr. Bullinger but the ten statements which we have listed above are in hearty agreement with, what our brother calls, “Bullingerism,” and not only so, but they are in complete agreement with the Word of God rightly divided. We would suggest that all Christians accept the teaching of our brother quoted from his earlier writings.

On page 41 of “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” the brother writes:

“We dare say this same mystery was made known to Peter on the housetop of Simon's residence in Joppa.”

Now consider this statement with his statement on page 6 of “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” that a dispensation begins with a new revelation

“Only when a new revelation from God is given, does a dispensation change.”

We agree with the writer's statement in his other book "Lectures On Colossians", page 57, where he specifically states that the revelation of the mystery was not given to the Twelve, but to Paul.

But if we grant that Peter received the revelation of the mystery in Joppa, about seven years after the day of Pentecost, and that a new dispensation began with the revelation, then by the brother's own argument, "the dispensation of the mystery" began after Peter's housetop revelation, and not on the day of Pentecost.

Thus we see that his arguments are illogical and contrary to Scriptural fact and in plain contradiction to his statements in his other writings.

Before we submit several of the brother's statements printed in his "Wrongly Dividing," we call your attention to one particular teaching of Dr. E. W. Bullinger, and those who follow his "dispensationalism." The teaching is, that the unity of believing Jews and Gentiles, as recorded in Galatians 3:26 to 28, one in Christ, without racial or religious distinctions, is Divine Truth quite distinct and different from the Truth of Ephesians, and Colossians, believing Jews and Gentiles in the One Body, which Body they claim began after Galatians was written. This is the "Bullingerism" which our brother should oppose and expose, if he can do so, not by calling his fellow-Christians names, but by sound exegesis of the Scriptures rightly divided. The contents of our brother's book, "Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth" exemplifies its title.

Note the statement on page 40 and 41:

"THE MYSTERY THEN IS NOT SIMPLY CENTERED IN THE TERM "BODY" BUT WHATEVER EXPRESSION MAY BE USED, THE MYSTERY IS THAT DURING THE PRESENT AGE ALL DISTINCTION BETWEEN BELIEVING JEWS AND BELIEVING GENTILES IS DONE AWAY IN CHRIST".

Note again his comments on the position of the believing Jews and Gentiles in Galatians 3:28, one in Christ, on page 37:

"IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY AS GIVEN IN EPHESIANS AND COLOSSIANS THAT GOES BEYOND THIS? IT IS A CLEAR DEFINITE STATEMENT OF THE ABSOLUTE UNITY IN CHRIST OF THOSE WHO BEFORE THEIR CONVERSION OCCUPIED DIFFERENT POSITIONS HERE ON EARTH, SOME BEING JEWS, SOME GENTILES, SOME FREE MEN, SOME SLAVES, SOME MEN, SOME WOMEN, BUT EVERY DISTINCTION NOW OBLITERATED IN THE NEW CREATION:"

Now carefully meditate upon these two statements in which he seeks to prove that the truth of Galatians 3:26 to 28 is identical with The Mystery of Ephesians and Colossians. And yet the brother has had printed in his new edition of "Wrongly Dividing" a foreword, and therein he claims that the "Body" Mystery is a different mystery from the mystery of the believing Jews and Gentiles as one in Christ. He states that the second mystery was revealed to John, Peter, Luke and others, but not the "Body" Mystery.

If you do read his foreword, just remember his words:

"The Mystery then is not simply centered in, the term "Body" but whatever expression may be used, the mystery is that during the present age all distinction between believing Jews and believing Gentiles is done away in Christ."

If his "Wrongly Dividing" is an assault upon Bullingerism, he has used up many pages trying to disprove something that no Bullingerite ever tried to prove, that is, that only Paul received or taught the truth that believing Jews and believing Gentiles were one in Christ, in fact, the Bullingerites do not call this "The Mystery."

I cannot help but believe that this dear brother knows that he has plainly contradicted his own teaching. It seems that he wrote this last book very much in the flesh because he was exceedingly angry with brethren who did not accept his peculiar water baptism theory, which is as unscriptural as his dispensationalism in “Wrongly Dividing”. He could do much for the Truth, if he only had the grace and humility to confess his blunder in writing “Wrongly Dividing”, because Christians, who are not Bereans, are propagating the errors of that book, accepting them as truth because they play “follow the leader”.

Of course, the Body is simply one phase of “the Mystery,” revealed in Ephesians and Colossians. The breadth, and length, and depth, and height of that Divine Truth can only be comprehended by the spirit of wisdom and revelation given to the faithful in Christ Jesus, who earnestly pray for it. Our brother in none of his writings has explained the Mystery beyond his statements of the Body of Christ. And now in his “Wrongly Dividing” he has gone back on even that much of “the Mystery.”

Some of the quotations from “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth” follow:

Statement Number One

“The greatest of all New Testament prophets is Luke himself, and in his Book of Acts the mystery is plainly made known.”

Statement Number Two

“Personally, I have no objection to the term “transitional period”, if it be understood that the transition was in the minds of men and not in the mind of God. According to God, the new dispensation, that in which we now live, the dispensation of the grace of God, otherwise called the dispensation of the mystery, began the moment the Spirit descended at Pentecost.”

Statement Number Three

“In regard to the statement so frequently made that God was giving Israel a second chance throughout the Book of Acts, it is evident that there is no foundation whatever for such a statement. Our Lord definitely declared the setting aside of Israel for this entire age when he said, “Your house is left unto you desolate.”

Statement Number Four

“The fact of the matter is that the Book of Acts opens with the setting aside of Israel until the day when they shall say, “Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.” That is His second glorious coming. In the interval, God is saving out of Israel as well as of the Gentiles, all who return to Him in repentance.”

Statement Number Five

Commenting on Galatians 3:28, where there is no mention of the Body of Christ, but reference to the salvation and unification of Jews and Gentiles in Christ, “on the common ground of grace”, the writer adds:

“Is there anything in the revelation of the mystery as given in Ephesians or Colossians that goes beyond this? It is a clear, definite statement of the absolute unity in Christ of those who before their conversion occupied different positions here on earth, some being Jews, some Gentiles, some free men, some slaves, some men, some women, but every distinction now obliterated in the new creation.”

Statement Number Six

“The mystery then is not simply centered in the term “Body”, but whatever expression maybe used, the mystery is that during the present age all distinction between believing Jews and believing Gentiles is done away in Christ.”

Statement Number Seven

Referring to Paul's conversion near Damascus, the writer declares that the mystery was revealed to Paul when the following conversation took place:

“Who art Thou Lord?” “and the glorified Saviour answered, “I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest.” “This was the revelation of the mystery:”

Statement Number Eight

“Was this mystery made known by other servants besides the apostle Paul? It was. The apostle John makes it known in his account of our Lord's ministry as given in the tenth chapter of his gospel.”

Statement Number Nine

“It shows us that John, as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, had received the revelation of the mystery even before the apostle Paul did:”

Statement Number Ten

“Then what of the apostle Peter? We dare say this same mystery was made known to him on the housetop of Simon's residence in Joppa.”

The following quotation is the first paragraph of page 31 of “Wrongly Dividing”

“It is contended by Bullingerites, and others of like ilk, that Paul did not receive the revelation of THE MYSTERY OF ONE BODY until he was imprisoned in Rome, 63 A.D. Generally, too, the ground is taken that THIS REVELATION was given to him alone, and that the Twelve knew nothing of it. Let us see if these assertions will stand the test of Holy Scriptures (page 31)

When the writer speaks of “THIS REVELATION”, to what revelation does he refer? The MYSTERY OF THE BODY. Yet he is now denying that he has stated in “ Wrongly Dividing” that any of the Twelve received the revelation of the Mystery of the Body.

How many mysteries are mentioned in the paragraph quoted from page 31? By no stretch of imagination could the reader believe that the writer was referring to two separate mysteries, one of which was the “Body” mystery which was not made known to or by Peter. The writer now asserts, when he stated in his “Wrongly Dividing” that The Mystery was made known to the Apostle John while Christ was on earth and to the Apostle Peter on the housetop of Joppa, and by Luke in Acts, he was not referring to The Mystery of one Body. This is what the writer is now trying to explain in his “Foreword” of the latest edition of his book. We quote his own language:

“My attention has been called to a most dishonest effort to set my teaching for the past forty years in apparent opposition to what is herein set forth. I disavow any such change in attitude. The mystery of the one Body is never found in any other New Testament writer save Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, and no where in the Old Testament. This I here reaffirm. Paul was distinctively the one to whom this sacred secret was revealed. In apparent contradiction to

this, quotations are given from the present booklet to show that I now teach that the mystery of the blessing of Jew and Gentile on one common ground is set forth by others than Paul. The mystery of the blessing of Jew and Gentile on the common ground of free grace was revealed to others before it was made known to Paul”

Here he affirms what he states in his other books, namely, that it was Paul alone who received and made known The Mystery of the one Body. Remember his statements in his other books:

“This doctrine of the one Body is never referred to by any other apostle than Paul”; “the Divine method of making it known was by a special revelation to the Apostle Paul”; “it was a ministry committed to him to pass on to saints”; “it is the capstone of Scripture teaching”; “it is the great Truth that completes the Word of God”; “it was to be brought to light eventually, not until Israel had been given every opportunity to receive Christ in Resurrection”; “to the epistles of Paul ALONE do we turn for the revelation of this mystery”; “he (Paul) was the chosen vessel to whom, alone it was given to set it forth; for the obedience of faith.”

Thus we see that in all of our brother's other Epistles, he, and the men whom he calls “Bullingerites and others of like ilk” are heartily agreed that Paul was the exclusive custodian and dispenser of the Divine Truth concerning the one Body and The Mystery to which Paul refers in the third chapter of Ephesians. And now that our brother has dogmatically restated this fact in his new “Foreword,” he should re-write and much abbreviate his “Wrongly Dividing” by eliminating the more than fifty percent of its contents, in which he brings false charges against fellow-members of the same Body. For if our brother were acquainted with the teaching of Bullinger and others of like ilk,” he would know that these brethren heartily agree with his “foreword” explanation that the unity, mentioned in Galatians 3:26 to 28 is not the mystery of Ephesians 3:1 to 9.

But this is where I differ from the writer's teaching and the teaching of “Bullingerites and men of like ilk,” for I most emphatically believe that the unity of Galatians 3 is the unity of Ephesians 2 and 3, expressed in different language.

I can also prove, by our brother's own statements in “Wrongly Dividing,” that he most heartily disagrees with himself, for he declares that THE MYSTERY is not simply centered in the term Body, but whatever may be used THE MYSTERY is, that during the present age all distinctions between believing Jews and believing Gentiles are done away in Christ (see page 40 and 41). Does he not here identify the mystery of Ephesians 3 with the unity of Galatians 3:26 to 28?

Note again on page 37 of “Wrongly Dividing,” after commenting on Galatians 3:26 to 28, he says, “Is there anything in the revelation of the mystery as given in Ephesians or Colossians that goes beyond this?”

Here is one of his plain contradictions: “The greatest of all New Testament prophets is Luke himself, and in his Book of Acts the mystery is plainly made known.” “To the Epistles of Paul ALONE do we turn for the revelation of this mystery” “he (Paul) was the chosen vessel to whom it was given to set it forth.”

Read carefully the pages on which these statements appear and you will see that he was referring to the same “Mystery.”

Read all his statements and all his contradictions and if fair minded you will say to him:

“No dishonest effort, brother, you simply are in a predicament. You have entangled yourself in many denials, contradictions and discrepancies, and the best thing to do is to humbly and graciously and openly confess your blunder and write your book.”

If he will do this and write Scripturally and intelligently against the extreme dispensationalism of Dr. Bullinger, we will endorse his message and help him distribute such a needed message. But his present cure is worse than the disease.

However, regardless of our brother's book of blunders, and the extreme dispensationalism of Dr. Bullinger and his disciples, our brother expressed God's will when he said: "NOW IF THE MYSTERY BE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH TO OBEY, IT IS CERTAINLY OF VAST IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY CHILD OF GOD BE INSTRUCTED AS TO ITS TRUE CHARACTER." (page 52 in Mysteries of God).

Think carefully and answer this question: "How many Christian preachers or Bible-teachers, to your knowledge, are obeying Ephesians 3:9: "And to make all men see what is the dispensation (fellowship) of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ"?"

God wants you to know and to make known this glorious Truth. Satan wants all Christians to be ignorant of THE MYSTERY, which should have ceased to be a mystery more than eighteen centuries ago.

It is not a popular message. Paul was in jail for it, where he suffered as an evil doer. You get in bad standing in religious circles if you believe it and express your belief. What shall we do about it?