

THE MYSTERY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

AND WHY IT IS STUNTED

“... speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things,
which is the head, even Christ...”

- Ephesians 4:15

1. The Mystery of Growth

- a. Their faith was growing exceedingly - 2 Thess 1:3 - How did this happen?
- b. Answer: Belief in the mystery of Christ - 1 Thess 2:13, 2 Tim 2:7
- c. The result: We grow up into his image - Eph 4:15, Rom 8:29, Col 3:10, 2 Cor 3:18

2. The Mystery Revealed

- a. We have access to hidden wisdom for growth - 1 Cor 2:6-10
- b. No magic mountain, you already know it, now faithfully walk - 1 Cor 4:2, 2 Tim 2:2, Col 2:6-7
- c. You are not spoken about in prophecy - Rom 16:25
- d. Israel is fallen, you are not Israel - Rom 11:11, 25

3. Paul's Pattern

- a. Paul was the chief and a pattern - 1 Tim 1:15-16
- b. He was made an apostle to us - Rom 11:13, Eph 3:1-2
- c. Following Paul can be hard to do - 1 Cor 3:10, 4:16, 1 Cor 11:1, 2 Tim 1:13, 2:7, 3:14
- d. Ignoring Paul will stunt your spiritual growth, but not your popularity. Gal 5:11, 2 Tim 1:15

4. The Mystery of the Gospel

- a. A dispensation of the gospel - 1 Cor 9:16-17, Eph 6:19, Col 4:3
- b. But now... righteousness without the law - Romans 3:21-22; 4:5, 5:8
- c. Strangers from the covenants, not under law - Rom 6:14, Eph 2:12
- d. When you learn the preaching of the cross, the gospel becomes powerful - 1 Cor 1:17-18

5. Our Identity

- a. The glory is Christ in you; you completely identified with him - Col 1:27, Col 2:9-10
- b. Not identified by your ethnicity, reputation, earthly vocation - 1 Cor 12:13, Gal 3:28
- c. This will change the way you view God, others, and yourself: 1 Cor 6:19-20

6. Our Ministry

- a. To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery - 1 Tim 2:4, Eph 3:9
- b. There are consequences to the mystery of Christ: prayer, holydays, not our own
- c. When doctrine becomes important then it is no longer carnivals, concerts, and candy

7. Our Destiny

- a. This earth is not our home; it will be greater later - 2 Cor 4:17-18
- b. Our affections are set on things above - Col 3:2-4, 2 Tim 4:10, 1 Tim 6:17
- c. We are either growing or are ignoring the doctrine that we know - Phil 3:12-14