

INTRODUCTION

- * As we studied Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we saw how he declared that God had given him special revelation to fully unveil the mystery which was hidden in God "from the beginning of the ages." (Eph 3:9) That mystery was the church - the uniting together of Jewish and Gentile worshipers of the one true Creator God through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ!
- * Today we begin a year-long study of this important record of the unveiling of that mystery!
- * God penned this book via Luke. We know that based off two primary pieces of evidence: first, this account is written to "Theophilus" as was the gospel accredited to Luke; secondly, there is a transition within the account when the author of the account joins Paul entourage (cf. Acts 16:10 [4-12]).
- * We begin today with the transition from the Mystery of Christ to the Mystery of the Church.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE R _____ OF CHRIST (v. 1-3; cf. Luke 24)**

A. Was the Validation of His Instruction (v. 1; cf. Matthew 4:23-24; 12:38-42; 16:1-4; John 2:18-22)

B. Was Validated by Many Witnesses (v. 2-3; cf. 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8)

II. THE C _____ OF CHRIST

A. The Command of the Lord

B. The Question of the Apostles (cf. Matthew 6:9-10,13; 16:28 ; 20:21)

C. The Response of the Lord

1. NEGATIVELY (cf. Matthew 24:35-36, 42, 44; 25:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10)

2. POSITIVELY ... Two promises!

a. You Shall Be E _____ (cf. John 20:21-22; Acts 2:1-4; 4:8,31; 6:3,5; 7:55; Ephesians 5:18)

b. You Shall Be W _____

1) S _____ TO THE APOSTLES (cf. John 15:26-27; 16:1-3; Acts 1:21-22; 2:32; 3:14-15; 4:33)

2) A _____ TO US (cf. 1 Peter 3:15; Mark 16:15; Luke 21:10-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10; Romans 10:14-17; Acts 7; 8)

III. THE A _____ OF CHRIST

A. His Departure

B. His Return (cf. Daniel 7:13; Matthew 24:30-31; 26:64; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE ARE YOU REGARDING THE ACTIONS AND TEACHINGS OF CHRIST?
- * ARE YOU CONVINCED REGARDING HIS RESURRECTION, ASCENSION AND RETURN?
- * HOW COMMITTED ARE YOU TO THE COMMISSION THAT CHRIST GAVE TO HIS FOLLOWERS?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * What impact has the resurrection, ascension and promised-return of Christ had upon the modern church? Is it the same as that of the early church?