



# Sermon Notes — Pastor Thomas Keys, SRMBC

**Ephesians: The Christian's Owners Manual V—The Mystery That Reveals**  
**Scriptures Ephesians 3: 1—7; 14—21**

## INTRODUCTION

"Columbo" isn't the typical detective whodunit TV show. On most detective shows, viewers don't know who committed the crime until the detective pieces the clues together and figures it out. The mystery and fun for viewers is trying to spot the clues that will lead Lt. Columbo (Peter Falk) to discover the culprit and watching the tricks he uses to get a confession. You could always tell when Columbo was on to something when he was about to leave a room with the suspected killer he would turn around and say "*O, just one more thing...*"

And beloved as the times that we live in are filled with trouble and turmoil, it may be tempting to be in fear, doubt or even despair. But God has already revealed the mystery of how all things are unfolding according to His awesome plan to save the lost and make the kingdoms of this world to become the kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ. And He has picked us to be part of it – and that ought to give a reason to shout and praise

## SERMON POINTS

As we look at chapter 3, Paul describes the Gospel and the plan of salvation that is found in Jesus Christ as a mystery. A mystery is like a rose that has just budded, and over time, it expands, so you can see what it looks like. And the Gospel, when fully unfurled, provides the answers the problems of sin and shame, the problems of racism, discrimination, social unrest and even more. While the Gospel is in and of itself is a mystery revealed – it also a mystery that reveals some things to us and in us – and what God does and can do for us.

So, what I want to in this message, is to look at Chapter 3 and discover the Mystery in the Word, the Witness, that will ultimately reveal the Wholeness and Wonderful Possession and Power we have in Christ – so that there will be no mystery of who we are and what we can do in Christ.

### I. Mystery Revealed Through The Word Of Christ (vv. 1 – 4)

Paul in recognition of who God has called and made him to be – arrested in Christ for the sake of the Gospel and to be a preacher of the Gospel. O, beloved we have a serious identity Crisis in this country – people don't know who they are. Sadly, there is also an identity crisis even in the Body of Christ far too many of us don't recognize or realize who we are and what we are called to do and be in Christ. We are not victims, we are not under – privileged, we not with out value or without a reason to lift up our heads, our hearts and our voices in praise to the God who created and proclaims us as fearfully and wonderfully made.

In one Peanuts comic strip, Sally was struggling with her memory verse for Sunday. She was absorbed in her thoughts trying to figure it out when she remembered, "Maybe it was something from the book of *"Reevaluation"* (instead of "Revelation") She never did find the memory verse, but we should always read the Bible with the intent of reevaluating our attitudes and actions to make sure they are in line with the truth of God's Word.

### II. Mystery Revealed Through The Witness for Christ (vv. 5 – 7)

I don't know about you, but other than the flying cars I feel like I am in an episode of the Jetsons. In other words, today we are seeing to fulfillment of things only dreamed of by those that have come before us. In the same way Paul let us know that the mystery of the Gospel – prophesied by the prophets and apostles that came before – we are seeing the fulfillment of the Gospel right before our eyes.

Even the unrest, the wars and rumors of wars, the sickness and economic and political upheaval we are facing are all under the control and supervision of a Great God who is known to move in Mysterious ways. (Building an Ark on dry land, Providing water in a desert, delivering a nation by one an and stick, having a prophet live 3 days in the belly of a fish...Sending Salvation through a Baby in a manger ...)

Somebody here needs to know that despite what may going on or how unpleasant it is or seems to be God is moving, He is working things out – He is intentional so keep you mind, your heart your eyes on Jesus and He will carry you through...from *Mystery to Victory!!!*

### III. Mystery Reveals The Wholeness in Christ (vv. 14 – 15)

This mystery reveals the ways of wholeness individually – to make us individually whole in Christ. Sometimes the reason why we are so angry at others is because we not been made whole ourselves. O, but when Jesus comes into our lives – doesn't simply reform us but transforms us by the renewing of our hearts and minds.

This mystery also reveals a wholeness of community – Paul says the whole family in the Earth is named in Christ. Beloved the world would love to tell us that we are divided along racial, social, cultural, political and economic lines. This sometimes causes the church to fight to same fruitiness and endless battles the unbelieving world fights.

Now, I'm not suggesting responding in fear when challenged but that the battle is the Lord's And when we must fight, let's use our spiritual weapons that are mighty and powerful. As we look at who the Lord Jesus is and what He has done, we will bow our knees not to one another, but to the Name of Jesus who has placed by His Amazing Grace into God's family

### IV. Mystery Reveals the Wonderous Possessions/ Power in Christ (vv. 16 – 21)

Beloved, the saddest thing is not having what you need – but having what you need, having blessings, favor, and power – but not knowing it.

Paul lets us know that the mystery of God in the Gospel, includes amazing spiritual blessings in Christ. The Spirit of Christ the gives us an inner strength that enables us to do what we cannot do on our own. There also to love of Christ which in us that is higher, wider, deeper, longer than anything we go through in this life – and enables us to be filled with fulness of God

Can you imagine being filled with the fullness of all Jesus is? And if that isn't enough, we can appeal One who can do exceeding, abundantly above all we ask or think – watch this according to the power that is already working in you. In since we know God has the power to save you, change you – we can tap into the power that affect change when we call on His Name!

“Undercover Boss” features a high-positioned executive or the owner of a corporation going undercover as an entry-level employee in their own company. They spend approximately one week undercover, working in various areas of the company's operations, with a different job and in most cases a different location each day.

At the end of the undercover week, the boss returns to his or her true identity and rewards hardworking employees by giving them promotions, or financial rewards.

Don't you know that our Lord Jesus came down here undercover wrapped in human flesh – became our Emmanuel – God with Us. Going through what we go through but without sin. Isaiah 53 says:

- ◆ He was despised and rejected by men,
- ◆ We esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted [on the Cross]
- ◆ But [the mystery revealed was] He was wounded for our transgressions.
- ◆ He was crushed for our iniquities.
- ◆ His chastisement brought us peace.
- ◆ And by His Stipes we are healed.

The mystery revealed is that Jesus has come, is present and is coming again – and will give hope, joy and peace, even when we don't understand.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- ◆ How has studying and reviewing God's Word helped you to see Jesus and yourself better?
- ◆ What some ways we can help those we know who are lost in sin see the “mystery” of the blessings that are in the Gospel?
- ◆ How can we use the Gospel to engage with others—especially those who are different from us?
- ◆ When have you seen God's power working in you? List ways you would like to see God's power work for you now and in the future