

Mark 4:22

For there is nothing hidden, which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad

Mark 4:1–20 speaks of the Lord Jesus as the Sower. Throughout all generations, His intention is to sow His word—that is, Himself—into man, thereby fulfilling the will of God the Father.

For this purpose, Mark 4:21 reveals that the only begotten Son of God Himself became incarnated and came among men, in order to manifest the word of life through His ministry.

In His ministry, one of the things He came to do was to unveil the mystery hidden (Mark 4:22) in God, the Creator of all things.

So what is this mystery? From Ephesians 3:6 we can see that this mystery is the church.



Read Ephesians 3:1–11 — The mystery of Christ is the church

When we read Ephesians 3:5, we see that this mystery was hidden in previous generations, but in the New Testament age it has now been revealed through the Holy Spirit.

Then, Ephesians 3:6 speaks of the church as the mystery of Christ: “That the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

- “Fellow heirs” indicates that, in God’s New Testament economy, the chosen, redeemed, and regenerated Gentiles together with the believing Jews become heirs of God and inherit Him.
- “Fellow members of the Body” indicates that saved Gentiles and saved Jews are built together into the one Body of Christ as His unique expression.
- “Fellow partakers of the promise” indicates that Gentile believers and Jewish believers jointly share in all the blessings promised by God in the Old Testament concerning His New Testament economy.

To be fellow heirs is related to the blessing of God’s family; to be fellow members of the Body is related to the blessing of Christ’s Body; to be fellow partakers of the promise is related to the blessing of God’s promises.

Read Ephesians 3:1–11 — The mystery of Christ is the church

Then, according to Ephesians 3:8, we see that the church as the Body of Christ is produced and constituted by the unsearchable riches of Christ being dispensed into His believers. The church is not produced by doctrines or organizational systems, but out of all that Christ is in His riches.

Furthermore, Ephesians 3:10 shows that according to God's purpose, the church is to display to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies the manifold wisdom of God. This puts Satan and his followers to shame; his schemes only provide God the opportunity to manifest His manifold wisdom through the church.

Finally, verse 11 says, "according to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord." The eternal purpose is God's eternal plan established in eternity past. This plan in Christ has a threefold goal: to glorify God, to bless God's chosen people, and to put God's enemy to shame. The primary aim of God's purpose is that He would be expressed and glorified through His chosen people (Church), which is also our greatest blessing. In this, God's enemy is greatly put to shame.