

Why Was The Gospel A Mystery?

1 Corinthians 2:7–8; Matthew 4:5–7; Psalm 91; 1

Corinthians 15:2–7

What Does The Bible Say?

7 No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. 8 But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. (1 Corinthians 2:7–8 NLT)

2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. (Ephesians 2:2 NLT)

Why was the wisdom of God a mystery?

Satan tempted Jesus.

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” (Matthew 4:5–6 NLT)

Satan quotes Psalm 91:11–12. Why?

2 This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. 3 For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. 4 He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. 5 Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. 6 Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. (Psalm 91:2–6 NLT)

Psalm 91 was found in a jar with four other psalms not in the Bible, which are exorcism psalms. Why?

How Can You Obey?

2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. (1 Corinthians 15:2–7 NLT)

Satan did not know the plan of God for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. But you know this mystery, so what will you do about it?

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner

enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ- followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

Why was the wisdom of God a mystery in 1 Corinthians 2:7–8?

Question 2 of 4

The Dead Sea Scrolls gave us Hebrew manuscripts over 1000 years older than we had. Why is that important?

Question 3 of 4

When and how should we fast? What are some different ways of fasting that are pleasing to God?

Question 4 of 4

Why do we say that we are Evangelical Christians?