



Apple Valley Church of Christ

Seeking and Saving The Lost...

We are honored and blessed to have you worshipping with us today and we extend our warmest welcome. Our service is modeled after the New Testament pattern of worship. If you have questions or concerns please express them to us. We are all here to serve.



Health: Zandra, Ebony, Leola & Larry, Thom & Mary Elizabeth, Irma, Sylvia & Patrick, Carol's mother Loretta, TC, Lenard, Sister Carlisle, Brother Rick McWaters, Michael's cousin, Sister Garret.

Also: Shannon's well being. Paul Brass' well being.

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear	Romans 10:17
Believe	Mark 16:15-16
Repent	Luke 13:3-5
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33
Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Live Faithfully	Revelation 2:10

Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Class	10:00 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday PM Bible Class	7:00 PM

Spiritual Uplifting

make ideas happen

August 20th

7:00 PM

Today's Services

- Singing
- Prayer
- Singing
- Preaching
- Invitation Song
- Communion Song
- Communion, Offering
- Announcements
- Closing Song
- Closing Prayer



Singing August 28th 6:00 PM



“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Most people like getting something new. While there is a nostalgia for some of the things from our past, who doesn’t enjoy sitting in a new car and enjoying that new car smell? Everything is clean and fresh, and we make a promise to ourselves we will never eat in it to help preserve that pristine feeling it has (which, if you have children or grandchildren, is a rash vow). With time, however, the aroma that once permeated the vehicle dissipates. There may be crumbs and French fries in several nooks and crannies under the seats, and that inevitable ding or scratch has happened, giving it part of its new character.

We may try to recapture that new feeling again. We can have it detailed inside and out, with some fresh scent sprayed to help revitalize the interior (which never does have the aroma of that new car smell). We can get scratch remover or touch up paint to try covering the external defects. Ultimately, however, the luster of when it was new fades as we become accustomed to its idiosyncrasies. It may start having mechanical issues, or it may be ol’ reliable, but it isn’t new anymore.

Such is the nature of things in the material world. Even in our lives, as we mature and grow older, our bodies remind us we’re not the same as we were earlier in life. Health issues may begin to creep up on us. Our memory may not be as sharp as it once was. We realize we are not “new” anymore, and that, as James reminds us, “You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away” (James 4:14). We are grateful for all that medical science can do to help us have the quality of life we have, but we know where our journey of life will eventually take us.

In all of this, though, we can rejoice that there is a way we can be made new again.

We know that, just as life in the flesh brings trials with it, so sin brings its own consequences to us spiritually, and ends in death—physically and spiritually (Romans 6:23). In Christ, there is renewal, not an artificial attempt to restore something that proves ineffective, but a real regeneration spiritually, a cleansing of our souls that enables us to have a genuine relationship with God and the promise of forgiveness that results in eternal life.

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

The blood of Christ enables us to pass from death to life and to reflect more and more the image of our Lord. “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18). While the flesh becomes weaker and weaker, new things come in Christ, and we know, once we have put off this flesh, we will reflect the image of the eternal Christ Himself (1 John 3:2). This is really the newness of life worth living for (Romans 6:4). This is a renewal unlike anything we can have or experience in this existence. “Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

The nature of life takes what is new and causes it to grow old and wear out; the nature of the Son of God renews us in His

image to a life eternal, “into an inheritance that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. You are being protected by God’s power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:4-5). Oh, how we long for this renewal, to be made new, to know we have something lasting waiting for us! Make sure your hope is focused on that which makes us new in Christ, not something temporal, physically new for only a brief moment in time. May we “put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him” (Colossians 3:10).

The Mystery of Christ

by Ben Jones

The word “mystery” occurs twenty-two times in the New Testament, most often in the writings of Paul. The apostle used the word ten times in Ephesians and Colossians alone. Our English word is translated from the Greek, *musterion*, which has an interesting history. According to Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, the term means “primarily that which is known to the mustes, ‘the initiated’” (424). Ancient religious cults often held ceremonies that were open only to those who had been initiated into the secret teaching of the group. These enlightened ones then gained special status and privileges not available to outsiders. Words, however, are ultimately defined by their use, and the New Testament context suggests a different sense of meaning.

In the NT it denotes, not the mysterious, but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit. In the ordinary sense a “mystery” implies knowledge withheld; its Scriptural significance is truth revealed. (424)

Notice this pattern in the letter to the Ephesians. Paul explained his knowledge

in the mystery of Christ, which consisted of the following: “that Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6). This mystery was unknown to the men of other ages (3:5) but was part of God’s eternal purpose (3:11). When the time was right (1:10), God brought His plan to fruition in Christ, and then He revealed the message of the Gospel to man through the Holy Spirit (3:5). Once revealed, the Gospel was no longer a mystery as such, but was intended to be shared with all men (3:4, 9).

Consider the implication of Paul’s message. First, spiritual truth is unattainable without God. The mystery does not disclose itself to man, and no amount of searching can uncover God’s hidden purpose (1 Peter 1:10-12). Second, God wants man to know His will. Paul wrote that the revelation of the mystery was according to God’s good pleasure (Ephesians 1:9). God wants a relationship with His people, and that comes through knowledge (John 15:15). Finally, God has revealed His greatest work to man through Jesus Christ. This is not a claim that man knows all that God knows, but rather a recognition that what God chose to reveal is very valuable. The scheme of redemption was centuries in the making from the call of Abraham to the contributions of multiple world empires. When all the preparations were complete, God revealed His masterpiece (Ephesians 1:10). In Christ the church is to display God’s manifold wisdom to the world (Ephesians 3:10).

Post-modern culture has sparked a renewed interest in the mysterious aspects of religion. Christianity, however, is not based on decoding secrets or searching for subjective truth within self, but rather a life changing response to the objective truth of Jesus Christ. The greatest mysteries of the Christian faith have been revealed in the New Testament. Thank God for such a powerful gift.

