**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment VI – The Culmination (Concepts 54-60)Progressive Bible Concepts - #55 “The Mysteries of the Faith”**

**Introduction – A Word on Mystery** How would you define the word ‘mystery’?

**Definition & Characteristics:**

* A scenario in which some key aspect of the narrative remains u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or is u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Reality that can’t be fully understood through logic or fully comprehended by the human mind. Any truth that is unknowable except by divine revelation.
* Theological mystery:
  + a truth known only through divine r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + is accepted by f\_\_\_\_
  + not fully c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or resolvable by r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mystery in the Bible:**

* Mystery – *musterion –* used 27 times in the NT
* A religious technical term in the cults in the Greco-Roman world c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to it’s members.
* 3 General Strands of Meaning:
  + What is known only through r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mediated from God – Matt 13:11
  + Supreme redemptive revelation of God through the g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ – Rom 16:25
  + The hidden meaning of a m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ symbol – Eph 5:32
* *“He made known to us the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His w\_\_\_\_\_\_…” Eph 1:9*
* *Jesus answered them, “To y\_\_\_\_ it has been granted to know the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.”* Matt 13:11
* *“By r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there was made known to me the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Eph 3:3
* *“Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.” I Cor 4:1*
* *“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to all the nations, l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.’” Rom 16:25-27*
* *“Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this a\_\_\_\_ nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God’s wisdom in a m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the hidden wisdom which God p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;” I Cor 2:6-8*

**Specific Mysteries in the Bible:**

* *“…resulting in a true k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s mystery, that is C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Himself…” Col 2:2*
* *“God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the h\_\_\_\_\_\_ of g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” Col 1:27*
* *“…holding to the mystery of the f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a clear c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” I Tim 3:9*
* *“…by common confession great is the mystery of g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” I Tim 3:16*
* *“For the mystery of l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is already at work…” II Thess 2:7*
* *“Behold, I tell you a mystery…for the trumpet will sound, and the d\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ imperishable…” I Cor 15:51,52*

**Theological Mysteries in the Bible:**

* T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible
* E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Theological Mysteries – Trinity:**

* Definition – God’s essential nature is a u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of three persons within a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ divine nature (the word is not found in the bible).
* T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – “*In the beginning, God…”* – Elohim, plural noun form is coupled with singular verbs in Genesis.
* *“After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of the heavens said, ‘This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” Matt 3:16,17*
* *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the S\_\_\_\_ and the H\_\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Matt 28:19
* *Peter, as apostles of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by the sanctifying work of the S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to obey J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.”* I Peter 1:1,2
* *“The grace of the Lord J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ, and the love of G\_\_\_\_, and the fellowship of the Holy S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, be with you all.”* II Corinthians 13:14

**Underlying Tension?** How can three distinct persons exist within a single Godhead?

**Theological Mysteries – Predestination:**

* Definition – The sovereign determination by God from all eternity of w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comes to p\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* History is *‘his-s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’.*
* Sovereign – means to ‘r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_\_’ – *dunastos* – one in a commanding position over other rulers.
* *“The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rules over all.”* Psalm 103:19
* *“…which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the King of kings and Lord of lords…”* I Tim 6:15

**Predestination – Biblical Basis:**

* *“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know – this Man, delivered over by the p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”* Acts 2:22, 23
* *But the things which God announced b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* Acts 3:18
* *“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to occur.”* Acts 4:27, 28

**Underlying tension?** How does God’s predetermination of human events not negate man’s freedom to choose?

**Theological Mysteries – Incarnation:**

* Definition – The biblical assertion that Jesus, the eternal word of God existed in h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the word incarnation does n\_\_\_\_ appear in the bible.)
* *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the W\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_.”* John 1:1
* *“And the W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*
* *“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His own Son in the likeness of sinful f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...”* Rom 8:3
* *“For in Him all the fullness of D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dwells in b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ form…”* Col 2:9
* *“…who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the f\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a bond-servant, and being made in the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of m\_\_\_\_. Being found in appearance as a m\_\_\_…* Phil 2:6-8.

**Underlying Tension?** How could infinite divinity exist within finite humanity or how can two distinct natures coexist in a single personal entity?

**Theological Mysteries – Inspiration:**

* Definition – The work of the Holy Spirit e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the human biblical authors to r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what God desired to have written.
* *“All Scripture is i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;…”* II Tim 3:16
* *“…for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the H\_\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spoke from God.”* II Peter 1:20,21
* *“As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them was i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.” I Peter 1:10-12*
* *“Now these are the last words of David.*
* *David the son of Jesse declares, and the man who was raised on high declares, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, “The Spirit of the Lord s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by me,  
  And His w\_\_\_\_\_\_ was on my tongue.” II Samuel 23:1,2*

**Underlying Tension?** How did God place His word within the rational framework and thought process of fallen men so that the sinful thoughtful process of people did not contaminate the pure truth of God?

**Theological Mysteries – Election:**

* Definition – God’s c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of individuals for s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *“When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life believed.”* Acts 13:48
* *“…knowing, brethren beloved by God, His c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction…” I Thess 1:4-5*
* *“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” II Thess 2:12,13*

**Election – Common Objections:**

* *How can that be fair?*
* *Why is man held responsible for his decisions?*
* *Why pray or do evangelism?*

**Theological Mysteries – Election:**

* *“But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “through Isaac your descendants will be named That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.” And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad,* **so that God’s purpose according to His choice would stand,** *not because of works but because of Him who calls,*

…*it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”* **What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there?** *May it never be! For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.”*

*So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.* **You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”** *On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?” Rom 9:6-20*

* *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is for their salvation.” Rom 10:1*

***How can God elect certain persons to salvation without appearing partial and without negating human responsibility?***

**Summary**

* Mysteries of the Faith:
  + a truth known only through divine r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + is accepted by f\_\_\_\_
  + not fully c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or resolvable by r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible
  + E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Concept 55**

* God sovereignly chose to include in His word a variety of incomprehensible and logically conflicting truths which are mysteries of the faith and must be accepted by faith.

**Next Week – Concept 56**

* The Centrality of the Church