

# THE 5<sup>th</sup> GOSPEL

## PAUL'S GOSPEL.... "NEVER HEARD OF IT"

The great majority of believers, in the world today, are quite familiar with the three synoptic gospels and especially John's gospel, in other words the four gospels in the so-called New Testament. But comparatively few have ever heard of the "fifth gospel," despite the fact that Paul himself, **three times** employs the term "My Gospel" in his own epistles addressed to the Body of Christ" – According to "my gospel" (**Rom. 2<sup>nd</sup>16**); According to "my gospel" (**II Tim. 2:8-9**); According to "my gospel" (**Rom. 16:25**), quote: "Now to him that is of power to establish you according to "my gospel," even the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **MYSTERY**, which was kept secret since the world (times of ages) began." This verse is of supreme doctrinal significance. The late W. R. Newell said: "He that remaineth ignorant of Paul's epistles, or readeth them lightly, will not become established.

The term "My Gospel" is not limited to the gospel of salvation, by grace through faith, apart from human merit, but it incorporated the doctrine, the exalted heavenly position, the CALLED-OUT of god in the present dispensation of Grace, in other words, the entire spiritual program for the life of every member of the "Body of Christ."

## THE BODY OF CHRIST... "NEVER HEARD OF IT"

Here likewise, the word church is a most popular term, the world over, but relatively few have ever heard of the above distinctive title given to the CALLED-OUT of God in the present dispensation of Grace. The believer who recognizes and understands "Paul's Gospel," will also understand that: the "Body of Christ" was a **MYSTERY (sacred secret)** hid in God (not in scripture) during all past dispensations (**Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:5,9; Col. 1:26**) and was first revealed, by the Risen Christ, to and through the Apostle Paul. Incidentally, this is the secret to a scriptural approach and application of the book of Revelation. The entire book is a prophecy, related to the future.

One should not think of the true church as a man-made organization, but a Divine spiritual organization. Briefly, it is the work of the Triune God: The Father chose us "In Christ" before the foundation of the world (**Eph. 1:3,4; 2Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2,3**); the Son redeemed us, not by His life, nor by His example, but through His blood (**Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14**); the Holy Spirit sealed and baptized us, not into water, but into the "One Body" (**Eph. 1:13; I Cor. 12:13**). There is (But) "One Body" (**Eph. 4:4**). "For we are members of His Body, of His flesh, and of His bones" (**Eph. 5:30**). This is the all-important membership. For a true concept of the "Body of Christ" (which is the true church) it was God's good pleasure to reveal it to us through His chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul.

## HIS SECRET COMING... “NEVER HEARD OF IT”

Here again, the second coming of Christ, to earth, is a most popular theme in the entire Bible and in christendom, but relatively few have ever heard or seldom hear anything, whether in literature or from the pulpit, concerning the Lord’s secret coming in the AIR, not to earth, for the members of His Body. This is exclusively Paul’s gospel and the next great event in God’s Grace program (**I Cor. 15:51-54; Phil. 3:20,21; II Cor. 5:1; Col. 1:5; 3:4 I Thess. 4:13-18**). The pre-tribulation secret coming of the Lord is imminent and may occur at any moment. Where-as, His second coming, when every eye shall see Him, is preceded by the Anti-Christ, the great tribulation, signs and wonders, etc.

### PAUL’S AUTHORITY UNHEEDED

Have you given serious, thoughtful consideration to the following most imperative question? If the Body of Christ had its historical beginning at Acts chapter two, on a Jewish Feast Day, with the twelve apostles ministering to **Israel only**, as many believe and teach: Why the Apostle Paul with a unique and distinctive message, by revelation, direct from the Risen, Glorified Christ, some seven or eight years after the Cross? Only the Apostle Paul could say “**Follow Me as I Follow Christ**” (**I Cor. 11:1; II Tim. 1:13; I Thess. 1:6; Phil. 3:17; Phil. 4:8,9; I Cor. 14:37; Rom. 16:25**). So, under the dispensation of the *Grace of God*, the believer is to follow Christ not with Moses and the Prophets, not with John the Baptist, nor with the Twelve Apostles including Peter, James and John, but with the Apostle Paul-the Christian’s pattern (**I Tim. 1:15,16; I Cor. 4:15,16**). Paul’s epistles, from **Romans to Philemon**, vitally concern every member of the Body of Christ.

### *Cursed*

Paul says “But though *we* are an angel from heaven, preach any other **gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so now I say again, If any *man* preach any other **gospel** unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (**Gal. 1:8,9**). Let us remember that Satan is the chief adversary of the marvelous, infinite, matchless Grace of God, and that he presents a spurious, **counterfeit gospel**.

The obvious absence of “Paul’s Gospel” in the Christian curricular, down through the ages since the days of Paul, presents the clue to the present day, fully demonstrated, religious dilemma: the **biblical illiteracy**; the **denominational confusion** with its divisions and subdivision; the Liberals with their social gospel; the present day drifting, compromising Evangelicals; and the numerous Cults with new ones appearing on the scene continually. All resulting from failure to recognize **Paul’s authority** in the Word of God. Paul’s gospel is the antidote for all the ills and isms in the world.

Frequently, we hear someone say: “Why don’t we hear Paul’s gospel preached, when it’s so simple and makes everything so clear?” One has expressed it very well this way: “Paul pleads to be considered, even in fundamental churches (**Phil. 4:9**). “Yes, he pleads for brethren to think...about these things” (**Phil. 4:8**).

One has appropriately stated: “We must dismiss from our minds the word c-h-u-r-c-h, if we are to understand the truth concerning the Body of Christ.” Consequently, today the so-called church is in the world and the world is in the so-called church.