1Thess #92

Paul was the Christ ordained, master of mystery doctrine.

Never forget - freedom is not free! Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend with a view to those who have fallen for our freedom and liberty!

God, country and family.

We will open back up today in our original study of 1Thess chapter four.

We are going to read right thru from verse 13 into the end of the chapter into verse 18.

1Thes 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers *and sisters,* about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as indeed the rest *of mankind do,* who have no hope.

This led us on a deeper look at the doctrine of death.

My guess is most Bels who have matured, realize that when an Unbel dies, we mourn for them.

When a Believer dies, we only mourn for ourselves, because they are face to face with Lord in perfection.

[1Th 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/14/s_1115014) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose *from the dead,* so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

The whole gospel of Christ is dependent upon the belief that Jesus Christ arose from that tomb, walked among us and ascended back to HIS heavenly throne.

Not only is this a historical fact that thousands have either witnessed or wrote about. It is the foundation of our faith.

When you believe upon TLJC as your savior, it is the whole person and work of Jesus Christ you are clinging onto.

[1Th 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/15/s_1115015) For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

/[1Th 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/16/s_1115016) For **the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout**, with the **voice of *the* archangel** and with the **trumpet of God**, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**.\

Verses 15 and 16 are written with great authority, great certainty - and this will be the subject we cover over the next few messages.

[1Th 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/17/s_1115017) Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

[1Th 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/18/s_1115018) Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

Jump over to the book of Acts chapter nine RF.

/The Apostle Paul had two main concerns with these Bels at Thessalonica, first was those who were wandering backward into lasciviousness. The second issue was misinterpretation of the doctrine of the Rapture and resurrection. He speaks with solid authority and certainty because Paul was taught by the Lord Jesus Christ, face-to-face! \

All apostles were taught face-to-face by our LORD. The office of apostleship which was always designed as a twelve- man operation, was decreed to be a one- time event in human history.

Divinely established, for the foundational purpose of establishing the church of Jesus Christ.

 REPEAT

Twelve being a Biblical number for God’s governmental establishment which points to perfection and divine structure.

Saul of Tarsus was the last Apostle called and brought into the light of mystery doctrine in super natural fashion.

The office of Apostleship is extremely unique and forever closed after the Apostle Paul’s conversion.

There is no other Apostle under Christ in human history;

/Rev 21:14 And **the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones**, and on them *were the* **twelve names** of the **twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

The very foundational walls of the new heaven will have the names of the 12 Apostles. These walls run about 1,500 miles long, one side of a wall! \

It is well over 1,000 miles to drive from my house in central Florida up to New York, just to give you an idea!

So, when the Apostle Paul makes extremely confident statements like he did in 1Thess chapter 4, it is not human confidence or arrogance – it is matter of fact truth, a dogmatic statement.

/1Thes 4:15 *For we say this to you by the word of the Lord*,

Every Apostle like all God-ordained pastor-teachers, bring their own personality or methods, yet it is the final core of each message that is directly from GOD. \

This is a strong set of statements from the Apostle Paul in these scriptures written in 1Thess 4:15-16 and 17.

The Apostle Paul was the master of mystery doctrine because his education was directly in heaven from TLJC!

Paul digested all aspects of mystery doctrine and was also highly educated on OT scriptures.

He was therefore the perfect candidate out of the twelve, to lead the new CA teachings.

In Acts chapter nine, Saul of Tarsus was on his mission to punish and imprison more Christians.

Act 9:3 Now as he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

Damascus is about 130 miles north of Jerusalem it is considered the oldest capital city in the world. It is located in Syria and will be a part of the end time events.

It has Biblical significance.

Damascus has been crushed and rebuilt more than once in history, but it will be destroyed when TLJC returns for HIS 2nd Advent.

Some believe the prophet Isaiah pointed this out as an end time symbol in Isa 17.

/[Act 9:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/4/s_1027004) and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting** (*diōkō*)**Me?**”

When you violently pursue and torment any Bel you are abusing Jesus Christ.\

DEE-OAK-O, means to continually pursue or attack and bring pain to someone.

Written in a Greek present tense - Saul was habitually chasing and torturing God’s people.

[Act 9:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/5/s_1027005) And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said,* “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

Saul uses a very humbling term – *kyrios,* which points to supremacy, a master over someone. It is a title for deity. You get a sense Saul was humbled in an immense fashion at this divine presence.

The King James Bible added a term about - *kicking against the thickets*, but it is not found in the original context.

[Act 9:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/6/s_1027006) but get up and enter the city, and it will be told to you what you must do.”

/[Act 9:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/7/s_1027007) The men who traveled with him **stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.**

This is often the theological angle that tells us, Unbels will hear something at the moment of the Rapture, yet will not grasp it on any level. \

There are two schools of thought; one is that when the Rapture occurs it will only be heard by Bels – Unbels will be clueless other than the missing people from the earth.

The other school of thought is that it will be moment of sound and light that is very confusing for Unbels to explain.

I think I fall in the middle here – Christ returns for HIS bride, that has a level of intimacy in it, privacy.

But - there will be something supernatural in that flash of the Rapture.

Knowing that Unbels cannot have fellowship with God. My guess is, they will likely hear something or see something, so quickly - it will leave them completely dumfounded.

/[Act 9:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/8/s_1027008) **Saul got up from the ground,** and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and **leading him by the hand,** they brought him into Damascus.

The conversion of Saul was the moment he acknowledged Jesus Christ, in that light of appearance Saul saw clearly Jesus standing in front of him. He willingly followed the instruction of the Lord. \

Laid out on his back, Saul felt helplessness. In his heart he knew he needed Christ to save him.

Showing us that most of the time we need to be put in helpless, hopeless situation to realize we need a savior.

[Act 9:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/9/s_1027009) And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Jump over to 2Corinthians chapter 12.

/TLJC was giving Saul of Tarsus a lesson on the death of his old life – Jesus was three days in the tomb. These 3 days of darkness represented a death, then a spiritual birth for Saul. A new convert no matter how educated, needs time to process and then begin their growth journey, uninterrupted by emotional distractions. The day after salvation is not time for emotional dancing and preaching to others, its time to adjust to your new life of studying BD. \

I’m sure that statement will offend the religious crowd but it is true.

A new Bel needs time to begin a fresh journey of studying BD. It’s not about waves of emotional nonsense.

 Or getting behind a pulpit in front of a rabid crowd to give your testimony.

The sooner a new Bel can adjust to studying and get into the WORD the better off they will be in the long run.

Now in 2Corinthians the Apostle Paul is defending his own apostleship because of lies and false teachers that the congregation at Corinth allowed.

2Cor 12:1 Boasting is necessary, though it is not beneficial; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul is speaking about the time he spent in the heavens learning mystery doctrine from TLJC.

/[2Co 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/12/2/s_1090002)I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows**— such a man was caught up** (*harpazō*)**to the third heaven**.

Paul is speaking in the third party about himself (difference between flesh and spiritual). To be raptured, taken swiftly. \

This is taken from a Latin root word to be seized or snatched up.

The English translation or explanation of this term is called rapture.

The Apostle Paul was carried up!

[2Co 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/12/3/s_1090003) And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—

/[2Co 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/12/4/s_1090004)was caught up into **Paradise and heard inexpressible words,** which a man is not permitted to speak.

The Apostle Paul is stating he was privy to some incredible doctrines. Teaching that even prophets and other men of God did not receive! \

When you take the time this was written – probably between 56 and 57 A.D. and deduct 14 years it aligns with the time of Apostle Paul’s first missionary journey around 43 A.D.

/Act 14:19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, **they stoned Paul** and dragged him out of the city, **thinking that he was dead.**

This was during Paul’s first missionary journey early in his ministry. This may have been the time of his Rapture. \

The first few years of the Apostles Paul’s ministry was establishing a foundation on the gospel message of TLJC.

He would also have easily understood many teaching principles and the shadow ministry of the OT in relation to the Torah, the temple and the commandments because he was a highly trained Pharisee.

/Act 22:3“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, **educated under Gamaliel**, strictly according **to the Law of our fathers**, **being zealous for God** just as you all are today.

Gamaliel is listed historically, as an elder and highly respected leader of the Sanhedrin in the first century. \

Gamaliel was known as the professor or teacher of the teachers.

Pauls’ expertise ran high on several levels and that is one of the reasons he was very unique.

All the Apostles were trained on church age doctrines.

/Act 1:1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about **all that Jesus began to do and teach**, **2 until the day when He was taken** up *to heaven,* after **He had given orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles** whom He had chosen.

The 11 other Apostles were given greater insight about mystery doctrine during the resurrected ministry of Jesus.\

The 40 days Jesus walked among HIS disciples after the cross, HE had many opportunities to sit with the 11 apostles and fellowship and teach on a much deeper level.

/[Act 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/1/3/s_1019003) To these **He also presented Himself alive after His suffering**, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them **over *a period of* forty days** and **speaking of things regarding the kingdom of God**.\

Even while TLJC walked in HIS earthly ministry for 3 ½ years, HE was alluding to mystery doctrine to HIS Apostles.

/Mark 4:11 And **He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God,** but for those who are outside, everything comes in parables,\

/[1Th 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/15/s_1115015) **For we say this to you by the word of the Lord,** that we **who are alive** and remain until the coming of the Lord **will not precede those who have fallen asleep**.

The Apostle Paul begins a set of authoritative statements of truth – the order of the Rapture will be the dead in Christ first. Followed by those alive at time of the Rapture. \

This is not guess-work, this is from the mouth of Jesus Christ to the ears of the Apostle Paul – that is why he is so firm in these statements.

Let us close today reading Ephesians chapter 3.

For those who like to ignore or scoff at mystery doctrine of the CA.

Which usually means they dismiss dispensational teaching…let them explain some of these scriptures;

/Rom 11:25 **For I do not want you, brothers *and sisters,* to be uninformed of this mystery**—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

Rom 16:25, 1Cor 2:7, 1Cor 15:51, Eph 1:9, Eph 5:32, Eph 6:19, Col 1:26-27, Col 2:2, Col 4:3, 2Thes 2:7, 1Tim 3:9, 1Tim 3:16 \

Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

/[Eph 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/2/s_1100002) if indeed **you have heard of the administration** (*oikonomia)* of God’s grace **which was given to me for you;**

Set of boundaries, dispensation or allotment Paul was called to manage. Stewardship. \

OY-CON-NO-ME-AH, means an allotted management over property, a dispensation or specific set of boundaries he was called to monitor and care for.

A piece of real estate God ordained for him to manage.

/[Eph 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/3/s_1100003) that by revelation there was **made known to me the mystery**, as I wrote before briefly.

Something hidden or misunderstood in the past, the Apostle Paul was in charge of clarifying it! \

[Eph 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/4/s_1100004) By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Why is Christ a mystery? Because it was not fully understood about the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union and then the CA Bels being in union with HIM.

/[Eph 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/5/s_1100005) **which in other generations** (*genea)***was not made known** tomankind, as it has now **been revealed to His holy apostles** prophets in the Spirit;

A mystery that others from a set time period or standard and measure of time were unaware of or misunderstood. \

GEEN-EE-AH, speaks to a set number a generation or family may live. Very specific time of beginning and end – definitive time boundaries.

[Eph 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/6/s_1100006) *to be specific,* that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

OT had scriptures pointing out that GOD included everyone who had faith to enter HIS blessings. Over time the nation of Israel became very laser focused on their own Jewish bloodline in connection to salvation.

[Eph 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/7/s_1100007) of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

[Eph 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/8/s_1100008) To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

/[Eph 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/9/s_1100009) and to enlighten all people as to what **the plan of the mystery is which for ages has been hidden in God**, who created all things;

AGES – *aiōn,* time period, dispensation in reference to an organized, structured time. \

Dispensation means an organized time period or a structure and responsibility with a definitive set of boundaries.

[Eph 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/10/s_1100010) so that the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places.*

MIGHT NOW BE MADE KNOWN-

Church age is a time of revealing the whole plan of God.