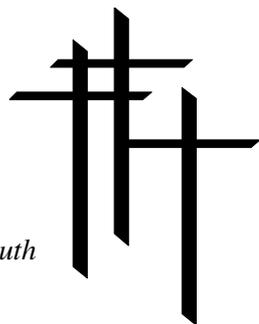


# Timely Messenger



*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth  
Speaking the Truth in Love*

Volume 71 No. 1

Jan/Feb 2011

## THINGS HID

By John D. LaVier

**T**he wise man of the Old Testament declared: “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing” (Proverbs 25:2). God seemingly delights to hide something away and then in His own time to bring that thing out of its hiding place, manifesting it to His amazed and wondering creatures, and thus bring glory to Himself.

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing.” With the words of this text in mind, let us turn to the book of Colossians and notice in each of the first three chapters some things which have been hid.

### The Mystery Hid

In Colossians 1:26 the Apostle Paul refers to the dispensation given to him by God;

“even the mystery which hath been hid.” What was this mystery which had been hid? It was the dispensation given to Paul, the dispensation of grace, during which God is saving sinners by grace, through faith in the crucified and resurrected Saviour, and making them members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The word “mystery” is used in the Scriptures in regard to many things. For example, we read of the mystery of Israel’s blindness during this age (Romans 11:25); the mystery of the Church as being a joint-body composed of Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 3:6); the mystery of the indwelling Christ (Colossians 1:27); the mystery of the vital union between Christ and the members of His Body (Ephesians 5:32); and the mystery of the translation of living believers at the end of the age (1 Corinthians 15:51).

However, we need to take care lest we reduce the mystery to a mere feature of it. The foregoing are but various phases of the mystery. The mystery proper is the dispensation, the dispensation of the mystery.

Some years ago we were in the scenic state of Colorado. As we stood one day on the top of Mount Evans, we could see the mighty snow-capped peaks rearing their heads toward heaven, and we could also see other mountain ranges farther beyond, but we could not see the long valley between. It was hid from our view. So it was with the prophets of old. They saw two great prophetic mountain peaks: the first coming of Christ as the suffering Messiah, and the second coming of Christ as the reigning Messiah, but they did not see the valley in between. That valley was the dispensation of grace. It was hid from their view.

This present dispensation and all of God's purposes in it, having to do with the calling out of the Body of Christ and its glorious character and destiny, is the mystery that was hid. It was hid, not in the Scriptures, but in the mind and heart of God. Israel's prophets knew nothing about it, nor did Christ as the minister of the circumci-

sion make it known when He was here upon earth. It was not until Israel had been set aside that God made the mystery known through the Apostle Paul.

All of God's purposes for the world had been connected with the nation Israel. But Israel rejected Christ in the days of His flesh, then refused the call to repentance, and blasphemed the Holy Ghost. It must then have appeared that the purposes of the Almighty had been defeated, but then it was that the manifold (many-sided) wisdom of God was made known. Then God revealed through Paul the fact that He had a secret purpose. He had foreseen Israel's rejection of the Christ, and had foreordained that Israel likewise should be rejected, and that during their rejection He would dispense grace to all the world, and bring to completion His glorious Church. Now the secret is out; no longer hid. Now we are commanded "to make all men see what is the dispensation of the mystery" (Ephesians 3:9).

### **God's Treasures Hid**

Men who have valuable possessions usually seek a safe place in which to hide them.

God has a safe place in which to hide His treasures. That place is in His own dear Son. The Lord Jesus Christ is the jewel box in Whom are hid all the rare treasures of the Godhead, for the Word declares: "In Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

"All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge!" Who can declare their value? The hymn writer put it:

*Precious, more precious;  
Wealth that can never be told;  
O, the unsearchable riches  
of Christ!  
Precious, more precious  
than gold.*

In his epistle to the Romans the inspired apostle wonderingly cries out: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" And these riches are all in Christ. All the treasures, all the riches, all the "pleroma" (fullness) of the Godhead reside "in Him."

How blessed the two little words "in Him," which occur so often. Everything of any value is "in Him." We read in Colossians 1:19, "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell." The words "the Father" are in italics, and have

*(Continued on page 4)*

## TIMELY MESSENGER

Published quarterly by:

### GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

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*Gregg Bing — Editor*

Sent **free** to anyone upon request. If you live in the Fort Worth area, we invite you to worship with us.

#### Sunday Services:

10:00 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Morning Worship
6:00 PM	Evening Worship

#### Mid-Week Services:

Tues.	10:00 AM	Ladies Class
Wed.	7:00 PM	Bible Study

## ADDRESS CHANGED?

If so, please notify Grace Bible Church. Be sure to include your name, your old address, and your new address. This will help us keep our mailing list current and reduce the cost of postage.

*Thanks for your help  
in this matter!*

*(Continued from page 3)*

been supplied. If any words should be added it should be the words “the Godhead,” or as the marginal reading puts it, “For in Him all the fullness of the Godhead was pleased to dwell.”

In Colossians 2:9 a similar expression is found: “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Then follows a tremendous statement: “And ye are complete in Him.” There are two great teachings presented in Colossians: (a) All the fullness of the Godhead is “in Him.” (b) The saints are made full “in Him.” There is nothing we need which is not to be found in Him, for in Him are hid all the Divine treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Christ is heaven’s treasure chest. All is hidden away in Him, and there is a sense in which He also is hidden. He is the hidden Christ. All during Old Testament times He was hidden. Then He was hidden in the womb of the virgin. After His birth He was hidden in Egypt. Returning to the land He was hidden in Nazareth, with one brief glimpse of Him as a boy of twelve. Then He was crucified, and for three days and three nights He was hid in the heart of the earth. But God raised Him from the dead, and

He went back into heaven. Now for almost two thousand years He has been hidden beyond the blue, discernible only to faith’s eye.

Some day Christ will be hid no longer. He will be revealed from heaven: The Revelation of Jesus Christ! That is the title of the last book in the Bible. First, though, he will reveal Himself to His own, as He calls them home to be forever with Himself. Then He shall be revealed to all the world. Every eye shall see Him. All shall perceive and know that He is the Incarnate Wisdom of God, that all the treasures of the Godhead, all the deep and precious treasures of wisdom and knowledge, are hid in Him. Then every knee shall bow before Him; His name shall be exalted; His praise shall be on every lip. Then shall be days of heaven upon earth. Lord Jesus, haste the day!

### **The Saints Hid**

In the opening verses of Colossians 3 the apostle reminds the saints of their exalted position in Christ. Having died with Him, and been raised with Him, and seated with Him, they are now to be done with the things of earth and to set their affection on things above. We

read: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." The believer is to reckon himself as dead to sin, but alive unto God; as dead to self, but alive to Christ; as dead to the world, but alive to the things of heaven.

A most blessed statement is found in this verse: "Hid with Christ in God." Christ is hid, and the saints are hid with Him. Hid in God; what a safe hiding place. The storms of life may buffet us, but we will not fear, for we are hid with Christ in God. The enemy of our soul may threaten us, but he will not prevail, for we are hid with Christ in God. In all these things we are more than conquerors, for we are hid with Christ in God. What a place of blissful nearness; hid with Christ in the heart of the Eternal One, the object of His love, the child of His care.

The saints are hid with Christ. It is not surprising then if they go unrecognized by the world. John wrote: "The world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be." The pilgrims of faith wear but humble garb, and veiled is their high degree. We are hid with Christ, be we are waiting. We

are waiting for God's Son from heaven, and for the manifestation of the sons of God. "When Christ, who is our life, is manifested, then shall we also with Him be manifested in glory." Our bodies of humiliation will be exchanged for bodies of glory. As we have borne the image of the earthy so shall we then bear the image of the heavenly. We shall be conformed to the image of Christ. We shall be like Him, in His likeness. Then it will be seen by all that we are indeed the sons of God, and heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.

We went into a friend's home one wintry day to observe a miracle of nature. On one of his walks through the woods this friend had picked up a cocoon, and had hung it up on a kitchen wall. That cold morning he called us in to see what had happened. The cocoon had opened up, and from out of it had come a beautiful moth. As we looked at the ugly cocoon, and than at the beautiful thing which had emerged from it, the thought came, we Christians are now in the cocoon stage, but some day we are coming out. We will be manifested to a wondering world. How that fragile creature got out of that tough cocoon, I do not know,

but at God's time it came out. The time is coming when the graves will be opened, when the power of death will be broken, when every redeemed child of God will soar away yonder to appear with Christ the Head in matchless, marvelous, fadeless glory.

*This article was written by Pastor John LaVier back in January of 1955. We are thankful for the faithful ministry of this dear saint of God who went home to be with the Lord in September, 2005.*

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God is my salvation,  
What foe have I to fear?

In darkness and temptation,  
My light, my help is near.

Though hosts encamp around me,  
Firm in the fight I stand.

What terror can confound me,  
With God at my right hand.

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*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

—Psalm 27:1

## THE WELL-DRESSED MAN

by Charles Wages

In our affluent, well-heeled society much attention is given to clothing. Men and women of all ages and generations are very conscious of new styles as to length, color, and cut. Much of the fashionable wear is produced and purchased for its immodesty, worldly attraction, and high sales value. Some is purchased for warmth and protection.

God's Word tells of an entirely different type of clothing, but this subject is covered thoroughly from the very beginning of human existence. Everyone is familiar with Adam and Eve's fig leaf aprons, but not too many know of God's provided skin coverings through the shedding of blood. We should believe that what God has provided for eternal protection is always superior to the best man can provide. God clothes us with:

- Salvation (Isa. 61:10)
- Armour of light (Rom. 13:12)
- Humility (1 Pet. 5:5)
- Faith and Love (1 Thess. 5:8)

What beautiful and appropriate clothing for people of all races and abodes!

## WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

by Lori Gardner

Women have always played a unique role in the work of the Lord, especially during Christ's earthly ministry. He seemed to have quite a different attitude towards women than most of society at that time. We never read where He commissioned women to go forth and preach as He did the apostles, and He never put women in a role of authority over men. Even so, there were many women that contributed greatly to His ministry. There are several named in the gospels that served Him in very important and practical ways as well as being firsthand witnesses to some of the most important events in history.

*“And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with Him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's stew-*

*ard, and Susanna, and many others, who ministered unto Him of their substance” (Luke 8:1-3).*

One of the most controversial women of Jesus' ministry was Mary Magdalene. Her name is mentioned in every one of the gospel accounts as one of Christ's devoted followers and most of the time her name is listed first. Many think this means she was a leader among the female disciples. Unfortunately, she has been confused with several other women in the New Testament and her reputation has suffered throughout the years. What we know for sure is that she was a woman that had been possessed by seven demons. Since the number seven in Scripture usually indicates completeness this could mean that Mary had been completely controlled by the evil spirits that possessed her. Jesus cast out those demons and changed her life. As a result, she became His faithful and committed servant (Mark 16:9).

She was one of the women that watched as Jesus suffered and died upon the cross (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25). At His burial she sat against the sepulcher as the stone was rolled to seal His

grave (Matthew 27:61). We can only imagine her feelings at that time. The horror of watching a loved one suffer through crucifixion and the grief at His death must have taken a tremendous toll. It seems that like the rest of the disciples she did not understand that this was not the end, but the beginning of something wonderful.

Mary also had the privilege of seeing the two angels outside Jesus' tomb. She heard the amazing words, "*He is not here, He is risen*" (Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; John 20:12-13). Then, she witnessed the most miraculous thing of all. As she stood weeping, the Lord Jesus Himself, in His resurrected body, spoke to her. In fact, He called her by name. Her first reaction was natural, she wanted to embrace and cling to the one she loved and thought she had lost.

It is interesting that Mary Magdalene was the first person that the Savior spoke to after His resurrection (Mark 16:9). Why, out of all of His followers, did He choose to appear to her? He knew how her heart must have broken at His death. He also knew how much it bothered her to not know the whereabouts of His body. Could it also be that He chose

Mary because He knew He could trust her? He must have known that she would do her best to spread the news of His resurrection.

When something exciting and unusual happens, all humans have a tendency to either add their own speculation or simply forget details when sharing the story to others. It would have been important for Mary to tell all the facts accurately of that resurrection morning. The future of many depended upon the truth of that day. She did exactly as Jesus instructed. She obediently told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and repeated all that He had spoken to her (Luke 24:10; John 20:17).

Another woman that is mentioned in the 8th chapter of Luke is Joanna. She is described as the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward. As the wife of King Herod's steward, she was probably not just another Jewish peasant. She may have been a wealthy and prominent citizen. Being a devoted follower of Jesus quite possibly could have put her and her husband in a dangerous position, but she must have realized that her safety and her position in society was nothing compared to what the Lord had done for her. She became a part of His

ministry and was one of the women that accompanied Mary Magdalene to spread the word of the resurrection of Christ (Luke 24:10).

One of the least known women that were included in this group was Susanna. She is only mentioned one time in the New Testament. Though we don't have a lot of information about her, she must have been important in the service of the Lord to be mentioned by name.

All of these women had been "*healed of evil spirits and infirmities*" by Jesus. It seems that their healing was a turning point in their lives and from that point on, they "*ministered unto Him of their substance.*" The word "ministered" means to wait upon, be an attendant, even in menial tasks. They each gave what was needed of their substance; whether it was money, property, goods, or labor. Naturally, there would have been a need for money in Christ's ministry, but there also would have been practical everyday jobs that needed to be done. These women actually followed Jesus in his travels, so it makes sense that they were more than willing to help out wherever and however needed (Mark 15:41).

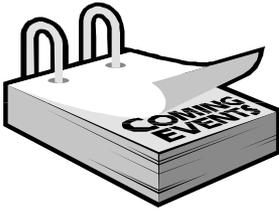
Their ministry was probably not too glamorous. They

certainly didn't take part in it for their own fame or glory. The tasks they were to perform were likely mundane and ordinary jobs. They wouldn't have had anyone to record and give tax receipts for money or property that they donated, either. They took part in the furtherance of the gospel of the kingdom because they believed in it with all their heart. They had come face to face with the Messiah, and He and His gospel became precious to them.

Proverbs 3:9 says, "*Honor the Lord with thy substance ...*" That is exactly what the women of Jesus' ministry did and they serve as a good example for believers today. We live in a different dispensation and in a completely different culture, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He can still use us in His service for the furtherance of the gospel of His grace. Whether it is with our time, talent, money, or property, we too can be like these women and "*minister unto Him of our substance.*"

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**"And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God." (2 Corinthians 8:5)**



## Annual Bible Conference (March 18-20)

*Theme: "A Worthy Walk"*

Hosted by Grace Bible Church of Fort Worth. The featured speaker will be Pastor Mark Carr of Arlington Community Church. There will be services each night at 7:00 and 8:30 with a time of fellowship in between and our regular Sunday morning services at 10:00 and 11:00.

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## Little Rock Bible Conference ( April 8-10 )

*Theme: "Distinctions of God's Grace Program" (Eph. 3:1-3)*

This conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Presidential in Little Rock, Arkansas with sessions at 7:00 and 8:30 Friday night, services throughout the day Saturday, and services at 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday morning. Speakers will include Teacher Les Feldick, Pastor Kevin Sadler, Pastor Gregg Bing, and Pastor Dick Ware.

## NEW WEBSITE!

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*Speaking the Truth in Love*

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### Coming Sunday

**Eternal Purpose of God - 13  
( The Law )**  
Text: Bruce D. Laveland  
Speaker: Pastor Gregg Bing

We look at the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai to the children of Israel, a covenant God used as a "schoolmaster" to bring that nation to Christ.

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— Dec. 20 - Jan. 1

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— Sep-Oct 2010

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1450 Oak Hill Road  
Fort Worth, TX 76112  
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[Click here for Map](#)

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**Services**

<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Ladies Class	10:00 AM
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM
Bible Study	

Grace Bible Church has a new website! The site has an improved design that is easier to maintain and keep current. We invite you to visit us at:

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- Get information about coming church events.
- Print registration forms for camps / retreats.
- View photos from church activities.
- Read issues of the *Timely Messenger* online.
- Read our books and tracts online.
- Test your knowledge by taking our Bible quizzes.
- Find helpful links to internet resources.

## BIBLE STUDY BOOKS



The following Bible study materials are available free of charge for your personal use or for use in teaching a Bible class.

### by Charles Wages

- Written for Our Learning
- Stepping Stones to Truth
- Past Pentecost to Paul
- Points to Ponder
- The Ages
- Saved by Grace
- Ministry of the Church
- The Perfect Will of God
- Once in a Lifetime
- Fellowship in Christ
- Hidden in God
- Thoughts on Vision
- Spiritual Fitness
- What Saith the Scripture  
(Set of 6 Diff. Tracts)

### by Mrs. Charles Wages

- Seasons
- Spiritual Thoughts for Young Minds
- A Man Named Paul
- Studies for Women

### by R.B. Shiflet

- Informal Study: Philippians
- Informal Study: Ephesians
- Personal Meditations on Paul's Post-Acts Ministry
- Giving Under Grace
- Ultradispensationalism
- The Lord's Supper

### by Ike T. Sidebottom

- The Book of Acts
- Through the Bible Dispensationally
- Prophetic Gleanings
- Saved, Settled and Sure
- Fellowship of the Mystery

### by Gregg Bing

- Keys to the Word : Understanding the Bible
- Unless the Lord Builds the House
- A Good Conscience
- That I May Know Him
- Making Good Choices
- For God So Loved the World
- It is Finished!
- Conformed to the Image of His Son
- The End of the World
- Assurance : Can We Know that We are Saved?

### by John D. LaVier

- Yokefellows : Paul and His Companions
- Sure Words of Prophecy
- The Lord has Spoken
- Why is Heaven Silent?

**S**tudy to shew  
**thyself approved**  
**unto God, a workman**  
**that needeth not to**  
**be ashamed, rightly**  
**dividing the Word**  
**of truth.**

—**2 Timothy 2:15**