

Stewards of the Mysteries

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 4, I Corinthians 2.
- B. The Corinthians were to regard Paul as a servant of Christ and a steward of God's mysteries.
- C. This refers to a pastor's accountability and responsibilities, respectively.
- D. The secret and hidden wisdom of God is what has been entrusted. (I Corinthians 2, Matthew 13)

II. The mysteries of God bring fulfillment.

- A. These are vital and essential truths about God, man, and the world in which we live.
- B. Man needs these truths in order to function.

III. Thinking is changed by being exposed to the majesty and greatness of God.

IV. Preaching.

- A. The cross is forever the judge upon human wisdom.
- B. Knowledge is fact. Wisdom is the use of knowledge. The Word of God challenges the latter.
- C. All wisdom must be compared to the mysteries of God.
- D. The wisdom of the world is passing away.
- E. The secret and hidden wisdom of God is being imparted for the glorification of believers—God lives for the glorification of man, which makes inward attractiveness visible.

1. The inner character of God is grace and truth.
2. Human glory is the fulfillment of what God intended man to do—to become whole persons.
3. The Word of God sets a person free.
4. A lack of understanding of the Word causes men to make terrible mistakes.

F. The mysteries.

1. The mystery of the kingdom of God is the mystery of God's invisible control of history. (Romans 1)

2. The mystery of lawlessness is the revelation of malevolent spirits in high places. The problem with society today is a lack of gratitude. Preaching exposes this.

Application questions:

1. What are the mysteries of God?

2. How does our culture view preaching? What is true preaching in contrast?

3. How can the secrets of God set a person free? Explain.
