

1. **Introduction:** The mysteries solved by Sherlock Holmes and his author’s own amazing story: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
2. **Problem:** Research shows that 20% of US Christians are unsure that salvation is through faith alone. So if only 1 in 5 Christians understand this amazing grace of God, how can they possibly reveal this mystery to the world?
3. **Concept:** Paul’s usage of the term “mystery” and it’s biblical revelations:
  1. SDABC on Mystery:
  2. Paul regarded it as his mission to make known the mystery “which was kept secret since the world began” (Rom. 16:25; cf. 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 3:3, 4).
  3. God’s eternal purpose to redeem man in Christ has now been declared in Christianity.
  4. Thus Paul describes the whole Christian revelation as a mystery (Rom. 16:25; 1 Cor. 2:7–10; Eph. 1:9; 6:19; Col. 1:26; 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:9).
  5. He applies the term to the incarnation of Christ (1 Tim. 3:16), to the union of Christ and His church as typified by marriage (Eph. 5:32), to the transformation of the saints at the second coming (1 Cor. 15:51), to the opposition of Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:7), and especially to the admission of the Gentiles to the kingdom of Christ (Rom. 16:25, 26; Eph. 3:1–6; Col. 1:26, 27).
4. **Story:** Saul and his conversion tells us that he, himself, didn’t understand the mystery of the gospel: Acts 9:4-9
  1. EGW - “During the long hours when Saul was shut in with God alone, he recalled many of the passages of Scripture referring to the first advent of Christ. Carefully he traced down the prophecies, with a memory sharpened by the conviction that had taken possession of his mind. As he reflected on the meaning of these prophecies he was astonished at his former blindness of understanding and at the blindness of the Jews in general, which had led to the rejection of Jesus as the promised Messiah. To his enlightened vision all now seemed plain. He knew that his former prejudice and unbelief had clouded his spiritual perception and had prevented him from discerning in Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah of prophecy.” - Acts of the Apostles pg. 117-118
5. **Concept:** As Paul writes to the church in Colosse, he is concerned that they continue to reveal Christ as the “Hope for fallen humanity” to others as he had done.
6. Colossians 1:24-29
  1. “It is God’s plan that His people shall penetrate deeper mysteries of divine knowledge by the help of His Holy Spirit. In turn, through their receiving this revelation, God will so transform their dispositions that saintly characters will be the result.” - SDABC
  2. **Illustration:** “To Run After Or Run From”  
A young girl was being examined for membership in a local church. “Has Christ made a difference in your life?” one deacon asked. She replied that He certainly had. Trying to draw her out more, he asked, “Well, then do you sin any more?” The girl admitted that she did. “Well, if you sinned before you were a Christian and you sin since you became a Christian, how has Christ made a difference in your life?”  
The girl thought a moment. “Sir, I think it is this: before I was a Christian. I ran after sin. Now I run from it though sometimes I am still overtaken.” — Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations
7. v. 27: **“Riches of the glory”** - Paul uses this phrase in other primary passages regarding salvation: **Rom. 9:23; Eph. 1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16**
  1. **Quote:** “In Christ the heavenly reality breaks into this world. It not only achieves the victory of the cross but carries with it an indwelling in believers (Col. 1:27).” - *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
  2. **Illustration:** “Everything For Nothing”  
An aged saint, on being asked to describe salvation, aptly replied, “Something for nothing.” Another aged saint, who had weathered the storms for many a long year and was nearing the Heavenly harbor, on hearing

this story related, exclaimed, “Yes, it’s even better than that. It’s everything for nothing.” —Grace Robinson

3. v. 27: **“Christ in you, the hope of glory”** (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:1)
4. “By inaugurating the plan of salvation, God placed before fallen humanity the hope of restoration to the divine presence. The incarnation of Christ brought the realization of this hope one stage nearer. The indwelling of Christ in the individual heart gives evidence that the power of grace is working to transform the character. This makes real the hope of glorification. The Christian lives in the kingdom of grace today, which gives him assurance that he will one day dwell with Christ in the kingdom of glory. Compare **Rom. 8:18**; 1 Tim. 1:1.” - SDABC
8. **Illustration:** Secret Societies initiate their members into mysterious rituals and clandestine ceremonies to keep themselves exclusive, but the Biblical Gospel is inclusive: “There is no exclusiveness in Paul’s teachings, as there was in those of the false teachers. Every class of society is to be reached with the gospel of salvation.” - SDABC on Col. 1:28
9. v. 28: **“that I may present you complete in Christ”**: compare Phil. 3:12-15
  1. *“complete” or “perfect”*: *teleios*
  2. EGW - “The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. This is the knowledge that works transformation of character. Received into the life, it will re-create the soul in the image of Christ. This is the knowledge that God invites His children to receive, beside which all else is vanity and nothingness.” - Acts of the Apostles pg. 474
10. “For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.” (Colossians 1:29 NAS95)

11. **Would you like that same power to work within you friend?**

12. “In his efforts to reach God's ideal for him, the Christian is to despair of nothing. Moral and spiritual perfection, through the grace and power of Christ, is promised to all. Jesus is the source of power, the fountain of life. He brings us to His word, and from the tree of life presents to us leaves for the healing of sin-sick souls. He leads us to the throne of God, and puts into our mouth a prayer through which we are brought into close contact with Himself. In our behalf He sets in operation the all-powerful agencies of heaven. At every step we touch His living power.” - Acts of the Apostles pg. 476-477

13. **Appeal Poem:** I Only Know

You asked me how I gave my heart to Christ,  
I do not know;  
There came a yearning for Him in my soul  
So long ago;  
I found earth’s flowers would fade and die,  
I wept for something that would satisfy  
And then, and then, somehow I seemed  
To dare  
To lift my broken heart to God in prayer.  
I do not know, I cannot tell you how;  
I only know He is my Saviour now. —Anonymous  
Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700  
illustrations