

The New Apostle John

Commentary of June 1, 2007 — You, the apostle John, and the Mystery

The "[June 2007 Newsletter](#)" is online. It introduces the article for this month and it is titled "The New Apostle John." The Newsletter read in conjunction with the article gives additional information to the subject matter as a whole. The Gospel of John relates specifically to you as a believer in Christ today, as you live your life separated from other believers who are scattered all around the world.

You may feel isolated, alone, and "out on a limb" seemingly without any connection or support. In fact that is not the case. Most people in the world, and that includes people you love, will not believe this side of death (John 12:37–41), so do not expect it to be otherwise.

You seem alone because God has blinded the eyes and the understanding of the heart of those around you. Their eyes will be opened and the understanding of their heart will be softened when God sees fit to do so **"that the world through him [Jesus] might be saved."** (John 3:17). Jesus continued in John chapter 12 as He summarized His teaching to His disciples:

"Jesus cried and said, 'He that believes on me, believes not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that sees me sees him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.'"

• *John 12:44–47*

You should not abide in darkness. While you are seemingly alone in your Christian experience, you are indeed one of a special group. The apostle Paul, who taught the same Mystery understanding as the apostle John, was concerned about how believers in Christ's resurrection should live with that understanding and how they were viewed in reality, reality as God views you and your life as a believer:

"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke [unblemished], in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation [generation], among whom you shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life. ..."

• *Philippians 2:14–16*

You are saying to yourself, well, I don't feel like a very bright light. Yet the reality is very different than how you feel. In the spiritual realm you stand out like a beacon compared to those in the world, and **"you shine as lights in the world."** You are living **"the word of life."** Paul is referring to Christ's admonition to His disciples (in Matthew 5:14–16) which Jesus ended with, **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"** (Matthew 5:16). If you are a Christian just for yourself, and for your own salvation only, you are in a sad situation and your faith will not last:

"None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living."

• *Romans 14:7-9*

God maintains us in **"earthen vessels"** at present enduring the mundane tasks and humiliations of everyday life so that He, at the appointed time, may show His power through

us. Paul writes to the Corinthians about his own troubles in relation to their troubles. Likewise the troubles of the Corinthians relate to you and to me:

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed;

we are perplexed, but not in despair;

[we are] **Persecuted, but not forsaken;**

[we are] **cast down, but not destroyed;**

[we are] **always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus,**

that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

So then death works in us, but life in you.”

• *2 Corinthians 4:7–12*

God understands our distress and our groaning in everyday life.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal [eonian, of the ages] in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.”

• *2 Corinthians 5:1–2*

We have a hope that the rest of mankind knows nothing about — yet they too will have the salvation which you will experience before them — the Kingdom of God.

Once one understands the final revelation given in the Mystery of God as explained in Ephesians, Colossians, and the Gospel of John, only then can one learn how to “live” in today’s world with its unique stresses, challenges, and dangers. The latter half of Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and the Pauline epistles of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus begin to have relevance. You can then go back to the wisdom Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and even Job which will begin make sense to you as never before. It will seem as if they were written specifically for you at this time — but only if you understand the Mystery.

As you read those wisdom books you have an advantage because you know the plan of God. You know the end of God’s plan, as you go back and read the beginning of the Bible the manifold purposes of God. You are in training to fulfill a purpose. That purpose is to experience what Paul and John were commissioned to teach to you:

“And to make all [men] see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church [ekklesia, which includes you as an individual] the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal [eonian, age-lasting] purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

• *Ephesians 3:9–11*

The word “men” in brackets has a line through it. This is because “men” is not in the Greek. The message of **“the Mystery”** is not just limited to men. The principalities and powers of creation shall be taught that secret. You will participate in presenting that Mystery to them.

You are undergoing a process of education to construct a character within you which will be comfortable to go “out there” into **“heavenly places”** to make known to the **“principalities and powers”** what God wants them to know, which is **“the manifold wisdom of God.”** Yet at the same time you will never be alone again. This is your reality now, and for the future.