

THE MYSTERY OF SIN

2 Thessalonians 2:7

"The secret power of lawlessness is already at work."

- Mystery can be defined as something real or evident but its method or power is not.

- gravity
- God
- life
- death

- Sin is a fact; no one doubts it.

A. Sin is mysterious in its **ORIGIN**.

1. It had a **BEGINNING**; before that was perfect **GOODNESS**. *Genesis 3, Genesis 4:7*
2. We know the **WHEN** of sin but the **HOW** is more difficult.
3. Each individual life **HAS** sin; when did the taint of sin **HAPPEN?**
 - a. Through **ORIGINAL** sin.
 - b. Even the **BIBLE** does not give us the **DETAILS**.
4. Rather than total **ACCEPTANCE** (and join the crowd), shouldn't we have a certain **REVERENCE** of it or "fear?"

B. Sin's **INTERNAL** mysteries.

1. We think goodness is **SUPERIOR**, but look at sin's **PERVASIVENESS!**
 - a. We believe that **GOD** is stronger. *1 John 4:4*
 - b. But our **ATTITUDES** reveal something **DIFFERENT** than that truth.
 - 1) We seem to have more **FEAR** of evil than **HOPE** for good.
 - c. Vice is attractive, **ADMIRIED** and hardy while virtue is seen as weak, **UNAPPEALING** and fragile.
2. Sin's mystery is **PERSONAL** in its temptation. *James 1:13-16*
 - a. We have our own "**BESETTING** sin," our individual persecution, and **ACCEPT** it.
 - b. At our **WEAKEST** moments we are **ATTACKED**.
3. It has power to **DISGUISE**, representing itself differently from what it **REALLY** is.

- a. The Gospel **STRIPS** the falsity of the situation and shows us what we **ARE**.
 - b. What if God were to **EXPOSE** it all? There would be **NO** disguise - God is **TRUTH**.
 - c. The form of it that Scripture gives us is a **SATAN**, thwarting God's work and **RUINING** man's hope.
- C. The mystery has an answer - **JESUS CHRIST** who comes to **SLAY** that giant!
1. It brings us to **ANOTHER** mystery - of victory over death and sin by our **REDEEMER**. *Ephesians 6:10-13*