

An Important Pharmacy Word

It was back in the war days that a word was used to describe our now modern Pharmacy. Nurses were needed to administer medications to the wounded or sick soldiers. The medications etc, were kept in a place called the “Dispensary.” From there, Nurses would subscribe medications according to the needs of the soldiers. Then they would be dispensed with strict guidelines on how they were to be administered to those in need.

They would be managed by a careful qualified Nurse, who explained the use, frequency and length of time the medication was to be taken. This was known as a dispensation or period of time for the treatment from the date of admittance to the soldiers release.

This is the history behind the word “dispensation” which is used in the KJV to describe the specific instructions God gave the apostle Paul, to administer to the world, with distinct information that would cover a set length of time.

It is interesting to note that the Oxford Dictionary says, it is from the verb *dispensare* (from which we get “dispense”). It also says, Dispensation is used in the *regulations that control the dispensing of*

supplies. Similar words are: passing out, handing out, supplying, apportionment, assignment and bestowal. The Greek word (oikonomia) so translated signifies primarily, a stewardship, the management or disposition of affairs entrusted to one.

Thus 1 Corinthians 9:17, the King James Version the apostle Paul says, "A dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me." The idea is similar in Ephesians 3:2 and Colossians 1:25, where the word dispensation is used of his new ministry. In Ephesians 1:10 God's own working is spoken of as "dispensation."

This gets to the essence of the unique Pharmacy word depicting the instructions given to the apostle Paul. From the verses above we see that it is a Biblical word. The Lord appeared to Paul and gave him a set of instructions to dispense to the world.

It is seen to be different from the ministry and work of the 12 apostles. The Pharmacy word of “dispensing” helps us understand the contrasts and distinctions between the Gospels and the Letters of Paul. It is all centered around the new revelation from Jesus to Paul concerning the present Christian church family in the world. This little trifold is intended to be an introduction to some very good books

written by men who “have a handle” on the ministry of the apostle Paul.

In an abbreviated form the following information was given to Paul to present to the world. It will help you understand what God has handed out to the Church.

1. The book of Acts records that God progressively set aside Israel because of their unbelief (Acts 13:46, Romans 11:32). He then started the Church which began historically in the middle of Acts and will continue until Christ returns for His church (Acts 28:25-28; Romans 11:25, 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
2. Christ saved Paul and chose him to be the apostle of this Gentile church (Romans 11:13; and Galatians 2:7-9).
3. Paul was chosen to be the spokesperson for a new age called “the Grace of God” (Ephesians 3:1-3).
4. Paul was made the leader (1 Timothy 1:16), and given the message (Acts 20:24), the calling (Romans 8:28), the practical life style (Ephesians 4 - 6), the hope (Titus 2:11-13), and the destiny (Philippians 3:20) of all believers during this present age of grace.

5. He taught the establishment of a new Church (called the Body of Christ) - (Ephesians 1:22, 23 & Colossians 1:18). This Church was composed by a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), whereby Jews & Gentiles are made equally acceptable in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

6. Paul was given the instruction of the formation of local Churches, replacing Synagogues. These local “churches” were established with Pastors and Deacons — not Priests (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 3).

7. Paul taught a new experience of salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ, where Jewish rituals were no longer required (Ephesians 2:8, 9 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

8. Paul introduced and emphasised the Holy Spirit baptism into the family of Christ at conversion which replaced the need for Jewish baptisms (1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3-6). This Spirit Baptism is called the ONE baptism necessary for the church (Ephesians 4:5).

9. He taught the personal indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Romans 8:9; 2 Timothy 1:14) without the Jewish need for the manifestation of miracles, signs and wonders. The Holy

Spirit focuses on Christ and His Word and helps Christians live a Christ-like life (Colossians 3).

10. Paul preached Christ according to the “revelation of the mystery,” which was given to him (Romans 16:25) and he stressed the need to *rightly divide (teach the distinctions within)* the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).

A Bible scholar C.I. Scofield wrote a footnote in his KJV Bible which says, “*In Paul’s writings alone, we find the doctrine, position, walk and destiny of the Church*” - (c) TSRB– 1252

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