July 31, 2022

Christ In You



**Welcome, Welcome, Welcome 😊**

**Christ In You**

Please remember Paul is speaking of & to those who are born again.

**Colossians 1:24-29**

Please turn in your Bible to…

**Colossians 1:24ff** *“Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”*

**Please remember,** Paul is speaking of & to those who are Born-again.

Let’s break it down😊

*“Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you…”*

Just as other followers of Jesus suffered (E.g., all the Apostles), Paul was able to rejoice in trials & sufferings.

QUESTION: How do we personally respond to suffering? (Can our response to suffering be a potential measure of “Christ in us”?)

*“to present to you the word of God in its fullness-the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the saints.”*

*“The Word of God in its fullness-the mystery…”*

In its **completeness** (Not taking Scripture out of context)

Mystery – Not as in special knowledge, but rather as something that has been revealed!

**BIG PICTURE** (Stepping back to look at the Big Picture)

An often-overlooked aspect of the Good News of “Christ in us” is GRACE.

**GRACE** (Acceptance before we are acceptable)

**1 Corinthians 1:30b** *“…who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”*

**Grace** is acceptance before we are acceptable

In **Romans 6** Paul addresses concerns over “cheap grace”.

Who in your world needs to both see and hear about GRACE?

An aspect of the Mystery

**God loves all peoples** *“Let us make man in our image…”*

God promises to bless all peoples…**Genesis 17, Genesis 18:18, Genesis 22:18, Revelation 5:9**

Jesus brought the two groups together **Ephesians 2:11-16** (Please turn in your Bibles)

God has always been the **God of all peoples** (**2 Chronicles 16:9**)

Abraham and his descendants were the chosen bloodline to bring the Messiah (**Romans 9:5**)

Who are the unlovable people that God has brought into your life?

Remember in the OT a person had to go to the Temple to “meet with God”, now the “temple” goes to people.

It has been said that: For every person that reads the Bible, 99 people are reading and watching us. **What/who are they seeing?**

Another aspect of the Mystery

*“…Christ in you the hope of glory.”*

**Colossians 1:29, Romans 8:10-11, 2 Peter 1:3-9, 2 Corinthians 5:20**

Another aspect of “Christ in you” is victorious living.

**Romans 7** Describes how we fail in our own strength. (**Colossians 2:21-23**)

Are people who observe us at home, work, or play seeing Jesus Christ or are they seeing just our fleshly selfishness?

Our world needs to encounter “Christ in us the hope of glory”!!!

I.e., When things do not go the way we hoped or planned, how do we react? Does the world observe Christ in us or just our sinful selfish flesh coming out? When someone does not yield properly; When someone gives you the wrong change, when someone cuts in line…(WWJD)

-Who is in control of Your life?

-Who in your world is close to you but far from God?

Let’s ask Jesus!!!

**Prayer**

**Sing a song unto the Lord**

**Benediction**

**Table Talk** (Discussion Points)

**Please Consider Sharing:**

* In your own words, how could Paul rejoice in suffering? Is it still true today?
* Please share an example of Scripture being taken out of context.
* In your own words, why can grace be considered so dangerous by some?
* In Colossians 2, what are the two primary aspects of the great mystery?
* Scripturally (from both the Old & New Testaments), how do we know that God loves all people?
* In your own word, what do you think Paul meant by the phrase “Christ in you the hope of glory?”
* In Roman 7, why does Paul exclaim- “Who will deliver me from this body of death?”
* (OVERALL) Sharing what the Holy Spirit impressed upon you personally, during our time together.