

Col204 – The True Secret - Colossians 1:24-2:4

In 2006 a movie & book was released called "THE SECRET"

It was a re-write of a re-write - of a Higher Thinking  
a Higher Spiritualizing of Life

The concept originated in the 1800's  
& was called "New Thought"

& it basically says - there was a SECRET – a HIGHER Knowledge –  
that you could Attain and Access – to IMPROVE your Life

The book in 2006 - sold 30 MILLION copies  
Which means a LOT of people want – THE SECRET

But – it was a 150-yr-old - "not-so-secret" Concept  
Higher Knowledge - Higher Thought – Higher Spiritualizing

& In fact – it is very similar to what was happening  
in the Colossian church in 61 AD

& what eventually became known as GNOSTICISM  
Meaning (Higher Knowledge)

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& so Paul is writing to the Colossians to say  
HERE is the TRUE SECRET  
HERE is the TRUE HIGHEST KNOWLEDGE

& as we will read next week in

## **Colossians 2:8 (NLT)**

***8 (so) Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.***

Guys - **If we will get to know GOD'S - TRUE SECRET**

**We will Immediately Recognize what Paul calls *empty philosophies . . . that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world***

**THAT our GOAL in our Study of Colossians**

**KNOW the REAL THING**

So **we won't** be **CAPTURED** – By the **FALSE THING**

**Let's Pray**

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**As we start in at Colossians 1:24 today**

Paul "**Leads Into**" his **REVEALING** of the **TRUE SECRET**

By **First Establishing** His **LOVE** For the church

& the **RESPONSIBILITY** God has given him  
to **SERVE** the Church

**Remember** - Paul was **suffering in prison**

**when** he **wrote** to the **Colossians** – **whom** he had **never met**

**& Paul says to them in - Colossians 1:24 (NLT)**

***24 I am glad (I rejoice) when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.***

**This is IMPORTANT – So let’s take a minute here**

The words “**FOR YOU**” mean  
***on your behalf - for your benefit***

**Paul is rejoicing** because he considers it a **PRIVILEGE**

to **Suffer on Behalf of** – **For the Benefit of**  
a **group** of **believers** he has **never met**

**THAT is something that is Extremely FOREIGN**  
**in our church culture today – isn’t it?**

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**When** was the **last time** you **heard** a **Christian** say  
***“all right – I found a church that I CAN SUFFER FOR”***

**That’s a Foreign Thought**

**Because Our Church Culture**  
**teaches** us **just the opposite** doesn’t it?

**We are taught to evaluate people & churches**  
**Based on - what THEY can do for us**

**But** the **Bible calls us** – to the **Exact Opposite**  
Of **what** our **church culture** teaches **us**

**The Bible** calls us – **TO REJOICE** (Be Glad)

When **WE** are **privileged** to **SUFFER** – **FOR the church**

The **ONLY Church-Growth Book** – that's **Brave** enough  
to **State** THAT **Truth** – **IS THE BIBLE**

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**So - Continuing in Colossians 1:24 . . .**

If **you're reading** the **NJK** today

The **2nd HALF** of **vs.24** - **requires** some **explaining**

So – **let me explain** to you **what** the **original** is **saying**

By **simply reading** the **NLT**

**(again) Colossians 1:24 (NLT)**

***24 I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.***

**The Word Translated “Participating” means**

*“I’m taking my turn, I’m doing my part”*

**& the Phrase translated “that continue” means:**

*“to come behind” or “to follow the lead”*

**So – Paul is saying**

***“I rejoice in my physical suffering for you, because I’m taking my turn, I’m following Christ’s lead, by suffering for his church”***

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**Please listen carefully to this statement**

When **You - Set Aside** your **SELF concerns - & SELF issues**  
& **Sacrificially SERVE** - the **ones** that **Christ Died** for

**You** are **participating** (*doing your part*)  
& following **Christ's lead** – to **Suffer** for **His body, the church**

We **CAN NOT** add - to what **Jesus Christ**  
has **done** for the **church**

**but** we **CAN** “**Do our part**” - in the **sufferings that continue**  
**for** the **Body of Christ** - His **church** - - (*awesome lesson*)

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**Then** Paul Moves – From **SUFFERING** - **for the church**  
**To** his **Responsibility** to **SERVE** - **the church**

**Colossians 1:25 (NLT)**

***25 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by  
proclaiming his entire message to you.***

Paul is under a **COMMISSION** – by his **Commanding Officer**  
To **SACRIFICIALLY SERVE** the **Body of Christ**

**BY Proclaiming** God's **ENTIRE MESSAGE** to **them**

It is **A GREAT COMMISSION**

**In fact** - it is **THE Great Commission**

**& it is A COMMISSION – you and I share – with the Apostle Paul**

**As we take OUR RESPONSIBILITY to do OUR PART  
to Make Disciples in the Church**

So – **First Paul** makes his **Sacrificial Love** - **CLEAR**

**& His Responsibility** to **PROCLAIM**  
the **ENTIRE MESSAGE** of GOD - **CLEAR**

**& Then** – **Speaking** of the **Entire Message** of **God**

**Colossians 1:26 says (NLT)**

***26 This message (that Paul was responsible to proclaim) was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people.***

The **Definition** of “a **SECRET** (or **Mystery**)” in the **Bible**  
is **simply** something “**Previously Un-Revealed**” by God

**& God's FULL Plan & Purpose**  
Was **Kept SECRET** for **SO, SO LONG**

**BUT NOW** it has **been REVEALED** to **God's People**

The **TRUE SECRET** – is **NO LONGER** a **Secret**

The **TRUE SECRET** - is **NOW** - a **REVELATION**

**There were some In Colossae** – who **claimed** to **have**  
a “**HIGHER**” - “**SECRET**” knowledge

But the TRUE SECRET of God has NOW been REVEALED

HOW can there be – a Higher Knowledge – than GOD

HOW can there be a Greater Secret - than God's SECRET

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& so Finally – THE SECRET Starts – in Vs 27(a)

Colossians 1:27(a) (NLT)

*27 For God wanted them (God's people, v.26) to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too . . .*

One Translation (csb) says

*God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery*

God Wanted to MAKE KNOWN

*the riches and glory of Christ are [available] for you Gentiles*

God Wanted to MAKE KNOWN

*the glorious wealth of this mystery – for ALL peoples*

God Wanted to MAKE KNOWN

TO His PEOPLE - & TO All of CREATION

What 1 PET 1:12 says – *is so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen*

The TRUE Secret – The TRUE Mystery of God

*that even the Angelic Realm doesn't understand*

Is in the 2nd half of V.27

Colossians 1:27(b) (NLT)

*27 . . . And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.*

We have GOT to hear this

The TRUE SECRET – The Real Mystery of God

All the Riches & the Glory of the Greatest Mystery of God  
that is offered to EVERY PERSON . . .

*Is that - THRU Your FAITH - Jesus Christ – The Eternal Author & Giver of Life - Lives In You*

THAT – is the TRUE SECRET

*& the Life of Jesus Christ Living in you, is your Assurance,  
your Guarantee - of you SHARING His Glory for Eternity*

THAT is the greatest life changing Secret  
That God could EVER reveal to us

*Jesus Christ Living in you, is your Assurance  
of you SHARING His Glory – For ETERNITY*

THAT is The TRUE SECRET - & the GREATEST MYSTERY – of God

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**When You put your Full Faith & Trust  
In Jesus Christ – as your Lord & Savior**

**HIS LIFE – BECOMES YOUR LIFE**

The Creator of Heaven & Earth

The Center of Heaven's Focus

The Almighty God . . . COMES TO LIVE IN YOU

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**THE TRUE SECRET of God – which blows away  
every other so-called Secret of man**

Is that - ***Jesus Christ actually LIVES within the Believer***

& **His Life IN US** - is **our Guarantee**  
of us **Sharing His GLORY – With Him - FOREVER**

**Christ in you**, is your **hope of glory**

& **Biblical HOPE** is **NOT wishful thinking**  
**This HOPE** is “*A confident Expectation based on Solid Certainty*”

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& **SO – we don't preach a Process – Program – Ideology  
A Philosophy – a Concept – or a Theory**

We **preach A PERSON** – We preach **Christ !**

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**Colossians 1:28 says (NLT)**

**28 So we tell others about Christ (we preach Christ), *warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect (complete/mature) in their relationship to Christ.***

Notice that – **Our CALLING** is to **Present** People to **God**  
**COMPLETE** – **IN their RELATIONSHIP** with Christ

NOTHING about RULES – or RELIGION  
Or OUR WAY of Thinking . . .

**Our CALLING** is to **Present** People to **God**  
**COMPLETE** – **IN their RELATIONSHIP** with **Christ**

**We Preach** – **The Person** of Jesus Christ  
& a REAL – Transforming Relationship WITH HIM

**Because** – **HIS Life** in **You**  
is your **Assurance of Eternal Glory**

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**We** are **called** to **Warn & Teach** every **person**

That we may **Present Every Person** to **GOD**  
**Complete & Mature in their relationship to Christ**

**We are Called** - to make **Mature Disciples**  
Who **KNOW** – The **TRUE SECRET**

**That Jesus – Living IN US**

Is the **ASSURANCE** of our **ETERNAL GLORY!!**

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**Is it** an *easy calling* – **NO**

**Can we** do it *on our own* – **NO**

**Has God** *given us the Power* to do it - **YES**

**Colossians 1:29 (NLT)**

**29 That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.**

**Paul** says: *I work HARD – I struggle HARD*

**THAT** is the **“Our-Part” Part**

**AND - I DEPEND** on **Christ's Mighty Power**  
*that Works within me*

**THAT** is the **Life of Christ – Living in us - PART**

**We** still **Work HARD** - & **We** still **Struggle HARD**

**But we DEPEND** on the **Supernatural Mighty Power**  
of the **Life** of **Jesus Christ** - that is **AT WORK** *within us*

We **WORK HARD** - & We **STRUGGLE**

But **NOT** in our **Own Strength**

**But IN** – The **Dynamite** – **Life-Changing POWER**  
of **Jesus Christ** - **Living** & **Working** within **us**

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**Then – in Chapter 2 - Paul** continues to **explain**  
**How HARD** he has **Worked** - &  
**How MUCH** He has **Struggled**

### **Colossians 2:1 (NLT)**

*1 I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally.*

Paul is **IN the BATTLE** - & The **BATTLE is REAL**

& Paul is **AGONIZING** for the **Churches** –  
& for **many** other **believers** who have **never met him**

**And – WHAT exactly os he Agonizing for?**

### **Colossians 2:2(a) says (NLT)**

*2 I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love . . .*

The **Enemy** is **trying** to **SOW** this **False Teaching**  
of a **Higher Knowledge** into the **church**

& **Paul's AGONIZING** – that **the church** would be  
**encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love**

Because **THAT** is the NUMBER ONE way  
to **KEEP** the **Enemy** from **getting** a **CLAW** in the **DOOR**

We **Keep** the **Enemy OUT** – By Us **Standing Together** -  
**knit together by strong ties of love**

& then V.2 goes BACK to the TRUE SECRET  
In order to close this thought

Colossians 2:2(b) says (NLT)

*2 . . . I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself.*

*God's mysterious plan - is Jesus Christ himself !!*

BUT – That's NOT a Plan – That's a Person – EXACTLY!

BUT - That's NOT a Religion – That's a Person – EXACTLY!

God Wants us to have - *complete confidence that we understand his mysterious plan, which is Christ himself*

NOT an IDEA – or a PHILOSOPHY

NOT a RELIGION – or a HIGHER KNOWLEDGE

A PERSON – JESUS !!

The name above Every Other Name

The Name at which – Every Knee will bow

& Every Tongue will Confess – that he is LORD

WHY? – WHY is The TRUE SECRET of God

That Jesus Christ LIVES IN US ???

**Because Colossians 2:3 (NLT)**

***3 In him (in Christ) lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***

**There can be NO HIGHER KNOWLEDGE  
& NO GREATER WISDOM**

When **ALL of the True Treasures  
of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in Christ**

**& Christ Lives in YOU !!**

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The **True SECRET** – **of** the **True God** of **Heaven** & Earth

**Is** that **WHEN** we **put** our **Full Faith** in **Jesus Christ**

**God promises** us  
**that** the **LIFE** of **Jesus Christ** will **LIVE IN US**

**& The Life** of **Jesus Christ** – Who **Conquered**  
**Sin & Death** & the **Grave** – & **Who** is ALIVE IN US

**Is** our **Absolute Guarantee** – that we will **SHARE His Glory**  
For **Eternity** – **WITH HIM**

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**The people** – who have **sold 30 MILLION copies**  
of a “**Supposed Secret**” of ‘Higher Knowledge’

**They** are **getting RICH** – But **they** are **offering** you **NOTHING**  
To **Deal** with your **SIN**

& **that Sin Separates** you  
from **spending** an **Eternity** in **Glory with God**

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**BUT** – **Jesus** Christ **Paid** for **Your SIN Completely**

& **when** you **put** your **Faith in Him**

<p><b><u>What He has done</u></b> - on <b><u>your Behalf</u></b> <b><u>Becomes</u></b> what <b><u>You have done</u></b> before God</p>
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& **His Life** – **Living IN you** – **Gives** you **Rock-Solid Assurance**  
of **you SHARING** His **GLORY** for **Eternity**

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**Don't be DUPED**

God's **TRUE SECRET** Is **you Receiving Jesus Christ**  
**into** your **Life** – as your **Savior** & **Lord**

**Christ in you**  
Is **Your assurance** of **Eternal Life** in **glory** with **him**

**Let's Pray**