



MYSTERY AND GLORY

The Secret to Knowing Christ over Religion
Colossians 1:27

Mystery and Glory - Colossians 1:24-29

1. We discussed this week that God is the author and revelator of the greatest mystery of all time: The Revelation of Jesus Christ. Do you think God created us with a sense of suspicion and interest in mystery for a reason? Why might He do this?
2. The Scriptures show God to be a God who earnestly desires to communicate truth to us. From the examples we covered this weekend, which spoke to you the most about how God is a "revealer of secrets"? (see Psalm 25:14, Deut. 29:29, Isaiah 45:3, Daniel 2:47). Do you see God as more of a revelator of truth and revealer of mysteries, or do you see God as a mystery whom you cannot understand? Why?
3. Our text in Colossians 1:26 tells us "the mystery was hidden for ages and generations, but now has been revealed". How was the mystery revealed? Discuss the aspects of Jesus' first coming that were a mystery. Why do you believe so many didn't receive the mystery at first? Are there things in your own life God has tried to show you that you did not initially receive? Is there something He is trying to tell you now that you are trying not to "listen" to?
4. Paul's "big reveal" is that the glory of God's presence is now on the inside of those whom He indwells: Christ IN US the hope of glory. Why is this such a huge revelation? Have you ever stopped to think that your inner life is now God's personal holy of holies? What do you think about this? Share/Discuss.
5. You need to be honest with this question, because if you're not, you might have a case of VRBO (Very Religious Body Odor). Has there been a time in your life where you were judgmental, condemning, self-sufficient, holier than thou, and operating like a pharisee or religious zealot than a sinner saved by grace? Do you see these tendencies in your own life now? How do you typically handle your own VRBO? How do you handle other people's VRBO? Is there a funny case of VRBO you want to share for illustration? (If feels good to confess it, doesn't it?)
6. Read this question privately for 2 minutes and then share one response. This lesson is helping us learn the "Secret to knowing Christ over religion". A series of questions were asked that may be good to revisit and consider. Is your walk with God a burden? Is it burdensome to know Christ and be around God's people? Are you a slave to habitual sin and experiencing no victory, despite self-effort? Do you find yourself focused more on doctrines and preferences more than Christ, (end times theories, baptismal viewpoints, Bible translations, Sabbath observance, diet regulations, outward appearance what to wear, not wear). Do you find yourself comparing yourself to others spiritually? Do you inspect the splinter in everyone else's eyes while excusing the log in your own? Is giving to God or serving God a drudgery? Is God's Word boring to you? Is prayer a chore? Is your walk with God like a stale marriage, or a first love honeymoon romance? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your relationship with Christ based on your thoughts to these questions?
7. As a group, please come up with your own definition of "Sanctified Holy Sizzle" and send it to pastor Kevin!