

Colossians 1:24-29

Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory

Introduction

We really finished up a three-part series on the characteristics of the deity of Christ. The last study focusing on reconciliation, Christ the Redeemer.

Christ reconciling all things to Himself (V20), reconciling meaning 'to change thoroughly from'.

- *We were changed from . . .* Being 'alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works' towards God . . .
- *We were changed by . . .* 'The blood of His cross, reconciled in the body of His flesh through death' . . .
- *And we are changed to . . .* Be 'holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight' . . .

In reviewing the Paul's dissertation on the deity, we need to take one final look at Colossians 1:15-23 together and in context.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Seven characteristics of the deity of Christ are revealed in these verses . . .

- One, He is the image of the invisible God, He is God in His very being and nature . . .
- Two, the Firstborn over all creation, His supremacy is declared over all of creation . . .
- Three, For by Him all things were created, Christ is the Creator . . .
- Four, He is the head of the body, the church . . .
- Five, He is the firstborn from the dead, the resurrected unto immortality and glorification . . .
- Six, in Him all the fullness should dwell, Christ encapsulates all the is the nature and character of God . . .
- Seven, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, He is Christ the Redeemer . . .

Nowhere else in Scripture do we see so fully expressed the deity of Christ . . .

Jesus is God . . .

Colossians 1:24-29

[24](#) I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

[25](#) of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

[26](#) the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

[27](#) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

[28](#) Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

[29](#) To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

(V24-25) – “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God . . .”

- “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you . . .”
 - We began this study on the Prison Epistles almost two years ago . . .
 - We have gone through Ephesians and Philippians, and are now just embarking on the Epistle to the Colossians . . .
 - The one thing all three of these Epistles have in common is that Paul penned these letters during the course of a two-year imprisonment in Rome . . .
 - Paul speaks to his sufferings and imprisonment in all three letters . . .

Ephesians 4:1 – “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord . . .”

Ephesians 6:19-20 – “And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Philippians 1:7-8 – “Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:12-13 – “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ . . .”

Philippians 2:17 – “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.”

- “And fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ. . .”
 - Paul is speaking regarding his willingness to suffer on behalf of Christ . . .
 - Christ’s sufferings were sufficient, but He is not with us physically with us . . .
 - Paul is suffering vicariously for Christ, Paul’s suffering is Christ’s suffering . . .
 - And likewise do we when we suffer on His behalf . . .
 - When we suffer for Him, it is His suffering . . .

- “For the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God . . .”
 - Paul is suffering for the sake of His body, the Church . . .
 - Everything Paul goes through is for the building up and the growth of the Church . . .
 - Paul was called to do many things . . .
 - Foremost to preach the Gospel . . .

I Corinthians 9:16-17 – “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.”

- He was the Apostle to the Gentiles . . .

II Timothy 1:8-11 – “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”

- In this case, ‘a minister according to the stewardship from God . . .’
 - A minister and steward of the Body of Christ, the Church . . .

(V26-27) – “The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- In the OT, the word *raz* (mystery or secret) occurs only in Daniel.
 - It relates specifically to God’s revelation through Daniel of dreams and visions whose meaning were hidden to others.
- The NT word is *mysterion*, occurring 27 times in the NT . . .
 - Paul using the term 20 times; Jesus three times in the Gospels and four times in Revelation . . .
- Mystery (*mysterion*) – ‘What is known only to the initiated . . .’
 - Meaning what God has chosen to reveal; when and to whom . . .
- The first time we see ‘mystery’ used in the NT is by Jesus as He begins to teach in parables . . .

Matthew 13:10-17 (Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10) – “And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

- Jesus gives us great of sense of the ‘initiated’, those to whom the ‘mysteries’ are revealed, and the ‘uninitiated’, those to whom the mysteries are not revealed.

- Further, God has entrusted and chosen Paul to be a steward of the mysteries of God, which we see reflected in Romans, I Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians and I Timothy.

I Corinthians 4:1-2 – “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- Let’s look at some of the mysteries entrusted to Paul to reveal . . .

The Gospel

Romans 16:25-27 – “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith--to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Salvation for the Gentile

Ephesians 3:1-7 – “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

The Wisdom of God

I Corinthians 2:7-8 – “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

Glorification & Eternity

I Corinthians 15:51-54 – “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

The Body of Christ

Ephesians 5:23-32 – “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

- Mysteries Revealed - The Gospel, Christ Unto Salvation, Salvation for the Gentile, Glorified Bodies, Death Defeated, Eternal Life, The Body of Christ and so much more . . .

“The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- Christ in you, the hope of glory . . .
 - Apart from salvation through Christ, this may be the most incredible mystery of all . . .
 - Not only are we ‘in Christ’, but Christ is in us . . .
 - Jesus has chosen to take residence in the heart of the Believer . . .
 - Christ in you, the hope of glory . . .

(V28-29) – “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

- Him we preach . . .
 - We preach Him, we preach Christ crucified . . .

Acts 4:12 – “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- Warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom . . .
 - Warning – To put in before the mind, to warn
 - The Gospel is good news, good tidings . . .
 - The Gospel is also a warning, with bad news to those who are disobedient to the Gospel . . .
 - Teaching in all wisdom . . .
 - The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom . . .
- That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
 - Paul’s thinking and approach was always for ‘everyman’ . . .
 - Anyone within earshot, anyone who would listen, and even for those who would not listen, Paul intended to be heard . . .
 - Whether preaching at the synagogues, in the midst of the Areopagus in Athens or sharing with the household of Caesar while in chains . . .

I Corinthians 9:19-22 – “Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not

free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

- The purpose and hope of evangelism is this very thing, presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus . . .
- And sometimes 'every man' is just one man . . .

Luke 15:10 – "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

- To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily . . .
 - Paul, in speaking to King Agrippa in defense of himself, described his persecution of the followers of Jesus and what followed . . .

Acts 26:9-19 – "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision . . ."

- To this end Paul would labor and strive, according to His working . . .

- By the election and power of God, Paul would remain obedient to the heavenly vision for the rest of his life . . .

Final Thoughts

When looking at these Scriptures, we see three distinct ministries of the Apostle Paul . . .

- “I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God . . .”
 - A steward of the Body of Christ, His Church . . .
- “The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints . . .”
 - A steward of the mysteries of God . . .
- “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus . . .”
 - A steward of the Gospel . . .

Clearly chosen by God, clearly empowered by God, from the very day they met on the road to Damascus . . .

As a final consideration, we close with the mystery revealed in tonight’s Scripture.

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- Christ in you, the hope of glory . . .
 - Christ in you . . .
 - Is there any greater hope . . .
 - Is there any greater glory . . .
 - The knowledge that the True and Living God lives inside of you . . .