

The Supremacy of Christ in *YOU!* Colossians 1:24-2:5

The Point: Christ, the hope of glory and fountain of all wisdom, dwells in his people for their progress in the faith.

I. Marvel at the Mystery of Christ in You (24-27).

a. The Mystery is worth suffering for (24).

- Paul had great resolve to suffer for the advance of the gospel...
- “filling up what is lacking...” There is nothing lacking in the redemption suffering of Christ. So what does Paul mean? I believe what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions is the suffering of Christ’s people (cf. Acts 9; “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting *me!*”)
- **“We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you” (2 Corinthians 4:10-12).**
- Why would Paul be so willing to suffer? Because his assignment from God was more valuable to him than anything, even his own life.

b. The Mystery is made known through the Word (25-26).

- 1) The mystery is no longer a mystery. Paul uses the word mystery to speak of “truth about God and his plan of salvation that had remained hidden in the past but that had now been revealed.” – Moo
- 2) The mystery is the message.
- If this message has so radically changed our lives, and it has, then we need to love people to tell them how they can experience purpose, peace, and joy in life. Anything less is simply unloving.
- Reasonable skeptics and even atheists understand this and respect Christians who are willing to share the message of Christ. Listen to what outspoken atheist, Penn Jillette, of the Vegas show Penn & Teller had to say after a Christian shared a Bible with him and encouraged him to embrace Christ:
 - "I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and hell and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward, and atheists who think that people shouldn't proselytize – ‘Just leave me alone, keep your religion to yourself.’ How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? If I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you and you didn't believe it, and that truck was bearing down on you, there's a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that."

c. The Mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory (27).

- Verse 27: “To them [who? the saints] God chose to make known [he willed it. he desired to unveil this reality at that point in history]
- **“how great . . . among the Gentiles *are the riches . . . of the glory . . . of this mystery***
- **“CHRIST IN YOU!, the hope of glory”** This should make us stagger.
- So often Paul will say we are in Christ, but occasionally he tells us that Christ is in us!

A Practical Theology of Christ in You

1. Christ dwells in his people by faith.

- Not Christ among you. Christ in you. Not even simply Christ with us. Christ in us.
- “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” Rom 8:9-11
- Paul says it like this in Galatians 2:20 “**I have been crucified with Christ. [what does that mean then Paul?] It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. [help me out a little more...] And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)**

2. You cannot live the Christian life... apart from Christ in you.

- Not Christ and you (as if we're tag team partners), but CHRIST IN YOU.
- *Acknowledging our inability and our need is the first step toward living in the power of Christ in us. Christ in you will save you from a tired, frustrated, discouraged, boring Christian life.*

3. Christ in you provides all the resources you need to glorify God.

- “**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**” (John 15:5) He doesn't depend on us. He doesn't need us. We need him! We depend on him!
- Jesus has the power to conquer any sin in your life. Your pride. Your insecurities. Your anger. Your lust. Your impatience. Your unforgiving spirit. Your selfishness. Your envy. Your lack of contentment. Christ in you. Christ in you. Christ in you. To put it more positively: Need wisdom? Christ is in you. Need perseverance? Christ is in you. Need joy in the task? Christ is in you. Need boldness to take that step of obedience: Christ is in you.

4. Christ in you is your hope of glory

- Everyone in Christ and everyone with Christ in them will share in the fullness of glory that will be revealed when God brings the end of this world as we know it, judges everyone, and makes everything new.

II. Press on to maturity through Christ in you (28-29).

- Jesus was the content of his message, and Jesus should be the content of our message. How do we go about it? We warn everyone and we teach everyone.
- Who are you investing in for their maturity in the faith?

III. Get acquainted with all the treasures of wisdom in Christ (2:1-5).

- "treasures of wisdom and knowledge" ---- This does not mean non-Christians can't know anything apart from Christ. All truth is God's truth. He enables us to learn and grow in knowledge in our field of study or profession. **What it means is that...**
- "Christ is the one in whom is to be found ALL that one needs in order to understand spiritual reality and to lead a life pleasing to God." - Moo...
- In all of your chasing after wisdom and knowledge, **how fervently are you pursuing the inexhaustible treasures of wisdom in Christ?**

Conclusion:

APTAT – Acknowledge you can't do it on your own. Pray for God to do it in you. Trust in his promises. Act. Thank God. Look at me. No....Look at him!