

Discovering True Riches in Christ

New Life Lessons
July 11th & 12th, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

Day One – Read Colossians 1:27-29, 2:2-12; Revelation 3:20.

What do you think of when you hear the words, “*hidden treasure?*” Most of us think of finding something that was hidden with the intent to stay hidden! God doesn’t hide spiritual treasures *from* us, he hides them *for* us! God wants us to find them! What do you think of when you hear the word, “mystery?” What’s mysterious about “Christ living in us?” Have you invited him into your life?

Pray and invite Christ to live in you. Ask him to show you if there are “unsurrendered parts” of your life. Invite him to fill every part of your life, and to reign as “king!”

Day Two – Read Colossians 2:9, 3 & 10.

How can it be that “*God is fully in Christ,*” and “*Christ is fully in us?*” This of course doesn’t mean that God is fully contained in us, and is limited by our limitations. But, it does mean that we can be fully filled by God, and live far beyond our limitations! Have you invited him to fill you completely?

Pray – Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for his desire to live in and through you! Invite him to reign and rule in your life today!

Day Three – Read Colossians 2:11-12; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 2:9-10.

In the Old Testament, men were circumcised (Genesis 17:10) as an outward sign that they belonged to God as his covenant people. Baptism is the New Testament equivalent in that it too is an outward sign of an inward commitment that we belong to God. Have you been baptized?

Pray – Thank God that because of his grace and mercy we have become members of his covenant people! We belong to him! Let’s live with gratitude and faithfulness for being his people! May we represent him well with the lives we live!

“The Mystery of Christ”

True Riches #1

Colossians 1:27 – 29, 2:2 – 12

Colossians 1:27–29; 2:2-12 (NIV) ²⁷ God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. (*teleios – mature, complete*)

^{2:2} My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

So, What Is The Mystery of God?

Colossians 2:2b-3 (NIV) ^{2b} That they may know **the mystery of God, namely, Christ,** ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

“God’s ‘mystery’ is not a puzzle to solve; instead, it is like a treasure chest filled with glorious riches, and it is available to anyone who looks for it. Those ‘riches’ are the hope of glory—eternity with God the Father. That ‘hope’ is a certainty because of God’s provision in Jesus Christ.”
- Life Application Bible Commentary

The Mystery of Christ

1. God is Fully in Christ.

Colossians 2:9 (NIV) ⁹ In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. John 10:30; 14:9

John 1:1-3, 14 (NLT) ¹ In the beginning **the Word** already existed. The Word was **with God**, and the Word **was God.** ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ **God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.**

¹⁴ So **the Word became human and made his home among us.** He was **full of unfailing love and faithfulness.** And we have **seen his glory,** the glory of **the Father’s one and only Son.**

Colossians 2:3 (NIV) ³ In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Romans 16:25-27 (NIV) ²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery** hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ **but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings** by the command of the eternal God, **so that all nations might believe and obey him--** ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

2. Christ is Fully in Us.

Colossians 2:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

John 14:23 (NIV) ²³ Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.**

What is the Result of Christ in Us?

- ***A Present Comfort & Hope***
Colossians 1:27; John 8:12; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 10-11; 3:15
- ***Spiritual Maturity & Stability***
Colossians 1:28; 2:4, 8; Ephesians 4:13-16
- ***Encouragement, Unity & Thankfulness***
Colossians 2:2, 7b; John 17:20-23; Hebrews 13:5
- ***Strengthened in Our Faith***
Colossians 2:7a; Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Ephesians 6:10

The Mystery of Baptism (Spiritual Circumcision)

Colossians 2:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ In him you were also **circumcised,** in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² **having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God,** who raised him from the dead.

Romans 6:3-4 (NIV) ³ Don’t you know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** ⁴ We were therefore **buried with him through baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.** Revelation 3:20; Romans 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17