

Lesson 24
The Great Mystery

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

I. MYSTERY

- a. In the New Testament the word occurs **20 times** in the letters of Paul.
- b. It is used in the sense of a **revealed secret**, not its sense of that which cannot be fathomed or comprehended. Rom 16:25
- c. The mysteries of Christianity are its **revealed doctrines**, in contrast to the wisdom of worldly philosophy. 1 Cor 2:1-5;
- d. Worldly philosophy is the product of intellectual research, while biblical mysteries are the result of Divine revelation and are **spiritually discerned**. 1 Cor 2:13
- e. Communication of these mysteries is limited, not by any secrecy in the gospel message itself or on the part of the speaker, but by the **receptive capacity** of the hearer.
 1. The doctrines of Christ and of His Kingdom are hidden from the **worldly wise** and the prudent. Matt 11:25
 2. Biblical mysteries are hidden from all who are **outside** the kingdom. Matt 13:10-12
 3. There are truths withheld even from Christians while in an **early** stage of development John 16:12; 1 Cor 3:1
 4. In the case of the carnally-minded, moral obtuseness or worldliness makes them **blind** to the light which shines on them 2 Cor 4:2-4

II. Christ In You

- a. Paul uses the word mystery in Colossians 1:27 in reference to "**Christ in you**" What does it mean that Christ is in you?
- b. The design of the Gospel is to put men in possession of the Spirit and power of Christ, to make them partakers of the **divine nature**. John 14:17; 2 Peter 1:4
- c. This divine nature prepares us for an eternal union with Christ himself and constitutes the **TRUTH** about us in three important ways: John 14:18-23
 1. **Judicially and positionally** from God's point of view. Acts 13:39
 - a. Because I have Christ in me I am saved from the **penalty of my sin** John 6:56; Rom 4:5-9
 - b. Because I have Christ in me I have the **righteousness** of Christ before God. Rom 5:17-19
 - c. Because I have Christ in me I am delivered from the power of sin and Satan in my life. I am no longer under his **authority**. 1 Peter 2:9-11; John 8:34-36; Rom 6:3-8; 1 John 4:4
 2. **Practically and experientially** in our moment to moment experience. Rom 8:10-13; Phil 4:11-13; Gal 3:20
 - a. Christ is in you by **faith** which He provides. Eph 2:8
 - b. Christ is the **true you** of the inner man. Luke 17:21; Rom 7:17-25
 - c. The thoughts you **allow** yourself to entertain should reflect the person of Christ. 2 Cor 10:4-5
 - d. The things of Christ and His Kingdom constitute the **deepest yearnings** you possess. Ps 42:1-2; Col 3:1-2
 3. This union with Christ is our ultimate **hope and expectation** when we leave our mortal bodies. Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3

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- a. During our earthly lives we are glorified by Christ but we will ultimately glorify Christ by being **like Him**. Ps 17:15
- b. We will know Him then in some degree as He **knows us**. 1 John 3:2-3; 1 Cor 13:12

III. Application

- a. Christ is **in us**, to enlighten, quicken, purify, and refine us, and this he could not do without **dwelling in us**. Eph 3:17-20
 - 1. To what extent do you remain conscious of “Christ in you” in your moment to moment living?
 - 2. What gets in the way of your doing so?
 - 3. What will you do about it?