

## Colossians Introduction - "Christ IN Us" 10-25-20

**Text:** Col. 1:1-4, 26-27 "...make known this mystery which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**"

**Intro:** In all of Paul's New Testament letters his primary phrase to describe the Christian life is "IN Christ" and "Christ IN you". He loves the word "IN"!

- **What kinds of things are IN you? How does it get there?**
  - **Things we put IN us:** Food, drink, Instagram, Netflix shows, music, cable news
  - **Things IN us from birth:** mom/dad mannerisms, voice inflexions, work ethic, etc.
- **What if these could be IN you?**
  - **Song writing talent** - Hamilton composer Lin Manuel was IN you?
  - **Athletic Ability** - King Lebron James to dominate a championship playoff IN you?
  - **Genius Intelligence** - brilliant ideas of quantum physics of Albert Einstein IN you?
  - **Wise Entrepreneurial leadership** - billionaire Bill Gates IN you?
  - **Passionate Conviction for "all men created equal":** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
    - Weekly Prayer gathering Tuesdays (Jerry L. / Ben C.) at our church Tuesday. I heard "it doesn't matter who's in the oval office b/c Jesus is KING and on the throne" and "which party you belong to is not the answer; the Body of Christ as the Church is who we are"!

### I. Question: What do Paul & N.T. writers mean for "Christ to be IN you"? IN US?

- Does Paul mean we can experience Christ's wise thinking, heart passions & commitment to do the will of the Father INSIDE us? YES he does!
- Paul never uses the word "Christian", or "Jesus in your heart" to describe "Christian life"

### II. Problem: Most Christians don't know, understand or live like Christ lives IN them!

### III. Message: You are not living as a "Christian" unless Christ is living in you!

- Belief, prayer, scripture, church, giving, serving doesn't make you a "Christian".

### IV. "Christ in you" - Intro to Colossians - We will discover and experience "Christ IN us"

- Map of Colossae
- Paul writing from prison - Ephesus - 60-70 AD - people still alive who saw Jesus
- **Purpose** - 1:28-29 - "**present everyone fully mature in Christ.**"<sup>29</sup> *To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*
- Paul never been to Colossae and never met these Christians / did not start this church
  - Learned about them from Epaphras and Timothy

### V. Why does Paul & N.T. writers use the title "Christ" for Jesus?

- "Christ" is not Jesus' last name - 1<sup>st</sup> cent. did not use last names; Jesus of Nazareth
- "Christ" Greek (*christos*) translation of Hebrew "messiah" which literally means "anointed one" - literally set apart for sacred service to God as king.
- "Messiah" became the **title** for Israel's promised king in the line of David who would rescue & restore Israel to the privileged position and identity as God's "chosen" people.

### VI. Declaring Jesus as "Messiah/Christ" Was Dangerous - That's why Paul is in prison!

- Jesus told people NOT to spread the word he was "Messiah" until right before his death.
- **Matthew 16:15-16** - Jesus question to Peter: "**Who do you say I am?**"
- <sup>16</sup> **Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."**

- *<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter,<sup>[b]</sup> and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades<sup>[c]</sup> will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be<sup>[d]</sup> bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be<sup>[e]</sup> loosed in heaven.”<sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.*
- **Danger & Controversy declaring “Christ” as Jesus’ title – He is KING!** Jesus is the anointed King of God not just over Jews but the entire Gentile (Roman) world!
  - National, Political, Religious, Racial as Jews - controversial & threatening!
- **Jesus as “Christ” has SUPREME Kingly AUTHORITY to establish New Kingdom** to call out injustice to the poor, preach repentance, forgive sin, extend mercy, cast out demons, heal sickness, spend time w/ outcasts, mentor apprentices to become the “church”, then leaves them in charge.
- **Jesus spends time “pouring” himself into disciples to build Kingdom citizens:** his thoughts, attitudes, passionate emotions, commitment to do the will of his Father (gov’t)

## VII. Jesus “Coronation” as Divine King is the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven

- **Col. 1:13 – Power & Authority to rescue, deliver, save us from evil & sin** *“Father has rescued us from kingdom of darkness brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves...”*
- **Vs. 15 – Pre-existent Son Creating all things with His Father** – ALL things created THROUGH him and FOR him! *“In the beginning was the Word...the Word was God.”* Jn. 1
- **Vs. 21-22 – Reconciled us to the Father** – *“Once alienated from God and were enemies in your minds...But now God has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, w/o blemish and free from accusation...”*

## VII. How does Jesus of Nazareth become “Christ IN you” and “Christ in US”?

1. **Place your life completely IN Christ as King** – *life, teaching, death, resurrection*
  - a. **WORD of Christ** – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach...”*
    - i. **Prioritize Colossians sermon series / read it through (4 chapters)**
    - ii. **Join us Bible Project Read Through Bible – Matthew**
    - iii. **SING – musical worship: Check out “We The Kingdom”**
2. **Put to death (crucify) your evil and sinful desires**
  - a. **Gal. 2:20 - By faith** - *<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
3. **Pray for Christ IN you to release INSIDE you:**
  - a. **His Mind and Thoughts** – about you, family, our nation, politics, etc.
  - b. **His Heart Passions & Emotions:** Hope, Peace, Joy, Generosity, Sacrificial love,
  - c. **His Resolve to do the Father’s will**

## IX. Message: You are not living as a biblical “Christian” unless Christ is living in you!

- **NOTE:** “Hope of glory” - Christ IN us will not be complete until He returns to set up heaven on earth!
- **Col. 1:27-29 The Message:** *The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God’s glory. It’s that simple. That is the substance of our Message. We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That’s what I’m working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.*