

**“In Not And” - Christ IN You...not Christ AND you!  
Colossians 2:1-15 (ESV)**

**Theme Verse: Col. 1:27 “...Christ in you, the hope of glory”**

**Review: 10-25-20 message: Your not living as a Christian unless Christ is living in you.**

Dan’s Message – If Jesus is full representation of God, and Christ lives in you and me, then are His Body and WE represent Christ. Texans: “Christ lives in all y’all”!

**Message: Uncertainty is God’s opportunity. Christ in me is the hope of glory**

**If I am “IN Christ” CHRIST lives in me...Christ lives IN me...Christ lives in ME**

- “Christ” is NOT Jesus’ last name – Greek *christos* Hebrew “messiah” – “anointed one”

**I. Lessons in Limbo: What does “Christ in me” look like in times of uncertainty?**

- **Never waste a crisis, trial or hardship – let’s learn together NOW before resolve**

**II. Text: Colossians 2:1-15** (read aloud w/ congregation declaring “IN” every time I stop)

- **“In” – 23 times Paul uses the word in 15 verses ESV (more NIV)** - preposition – “in or into a place, position, state, relationship; inside, within.
- “In” Christ is our key to secure personal and family identity, AND God’s purposes
- “IN” marriage relationship changes identity, security, purpose, decisions, etc

**III. My Goal is Paul’s Goal – Col. 2:2...encouraged in heart, united (knit together) in love SO THAT you have full riches of understanding (assurance ESV) in order to know mystery of God, Christ in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”**

- 1. Vs. 2a – “BE Encouraged in your heart”** – in fear **choose** hope by faith – 1 Cor. 13
  - a. **“Fear not”** - 365 times in Scripture –
  - b. **How?** Choose worship over worry – “If All I Had Was Christ” / “Be Still”
- 2. Vs. 2b – “BE United in Christ-like Love – Jn. 13** committed, family, self sacrificing love
  - a. **Prioritize reconciling relationships before resolving issues** – marriage/family cannot possibly agree on “how” to resolve every issue BUT we must prioritize the relationship.
  - b. **2 Cor. 5:16-19** – “committed to us ministry of reconciliation”
  - c. **HOW? Empathy for Everyone! Listen** more than you speak; don’t gloat!
- 3. Vs. 4 – Do NOT BE “deceived by fine sounding arguments”** - distracted, divided
  - a. Don’t believe everything you hear on cable news or social media
  - b. **Prov. 14:15** “Only the simple (minded) believe everything they’re told. The prudent (wise) give thought to their steps.”
  - c. **\*\* Don’t be disciple by cable news or spiritually formed by social media-**
  - d. **How? Read, listen, watch at least as much about Christ as politics**
- 4. Vs. 6-7 – “Live In Christ-like gratitude - abound IN thankfulness** -
  - Gratitude toward God keeps you IN Christ; heart of gratitude Christ-like attitude
  - **1 Thes. 5:18** “Give thanks IN all circumstances; this is will of God IN Christ Jesus”
  - **HOW?** Make a gratitude list or share them with others out loud
- 5. Vs. 8 – “Don’t be taken captive by human systems (Hostage Protection)** from human ideas, rhetoric, empty promises, even a democratic system of gov’t
  - a. Our citizenship is in the kingdom of heaven – Phil. 3:20
  - b. **Power** to hold you hostage: black hole to suck us in to the empty vacuum

- c. **“Stockholm Syndrome”** – 1973 hostages in Swedish band develop emotion attachment to their captors.
- 6. **Vs. 9 -10 – Declare Christ as King** - *“Christ is head over every power and authority”*
  - a. **Joe Biden is president (?) but Jesus is the Christ King**
- 7. **11-12 – Cut off Fleshly Attitudes** - **“circumcised”** – removing “flesh” sinful desires
  - a. **Col. 3: 8** - <sup>8</sup> *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*
  - b. **HOW?** Fast political posting on social media! Only post encouragement!
  - c. **Mystery of Gospel - Gal. 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. 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.*

**IV. Vs. 13-15 Celebrate the Gospel:** God’s rescue, salvation, deliverance in Jesus the Christ

- **Vs. 15 – Jesus the Christ allowed himself to be led as a prisoner in a parade of shame on the way to a criminal’s death on the cross. But this act of sacrificial love and resurrection power, Jesus disarmed the powers & authorities, leading a victory parade with evil as the prisoners in chains.**
  - **IMAGINE: Held hostage by evil powers:** chained, led in a shame parade in front of friends, family, co-workers, church family; reputation destroyed, abandoned & alone, stripped of job, finances, marriage, relationships w/ kids,
  - **Col. 3** – sexual immorality, lust, evil desires, anger, rage, malice, slander, lies, deceit, shame, guilt, greed, hatred, fear, bitterness, resentment, racism, selfishness, pride, abuse, addiction to pills, pot, alcohol, gambling, spending, etc
  - **Transfer of Kingdoms - Col. 1:13** <sup>13</sup> *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,* <sup>14</sup> *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**V. Gospel Rescue has been accomplished!**

- **“IF...” Col. 1:21-23** IF you have placed yourself “In Christ” then “Christ is (lives) IN you” <sup>21</sup> *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,* <sup>22</sup> *he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,* <sup>23</sup> **if** *indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation<sup>[a]</sup> under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

**VI. Message: Uncertainty is God’s opportunity. Christ in me the hope of glory**

**REPEAT: CHRIST in me...Christ IN me...Christ in ME (Christ in all y’all)**  
**The HOPE of glory**

**Closing Prayer:**