

The Mystery of the Ages – Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

- I. Apostle Paul's prayer (1:9-13)
 - A. That the saints may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
 - B. That the saints may walk worthy of the Lord
 - 1. Desiring to please God in all things
 - 2. Being Fruitful in every good work
 - 3. Increasing in the knowledge of God
 - C. That the saints may be strengthened with all might (power)
 - 1. According to the might of His glory
 - 2. Unto all patience and longsuffering with joy
 - D. Giving thanks to the Father
 - 1. Who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
 - 2. Who has delivered us from the authority of darkness
 - 3. Who has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love
 - In whom we have redemption through His blood
 - In whom we have the remission of sins

- II. The pre-eminence of Christ in all of God's creation (1:15-22)
 - A. Christ – the image of the invisible God (Heb. 1:3a; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 1:18)
 - B. Christ – the firstborn of all in the old creation
 - 1. For in Him, through Him, and for Him were all things created (John 1:3; Heb. 1:2b; 2:10a; Rom. 11:36)
 - 2. He is before all things
 - 3. All things subsist in Him (Heb. 1:3b)
 - C. Christ – the head of the church, His body
 - 1. The beginning of the new creation
 - 2. The firstborn from the dead (Acts 13:33; Rom. 1:3-4; 8:29)
 - D. Christ – the head of all principality and power (Col. 2:10b; Matt. 28:18)
 - 1. Receiving all authority in heaven and on earth
 - 2. All things are under His feet (Eph. 1:21-22)
 - 3. All the angels must worship Him (Heb. 1:6)
 - E. All the fullness was pleased to dwell in Christ
 - 1. Reconciling all the created things unto God (1:20)
 - 2. Reconciling the believers – to present them holy, blameless, and above reproach in the sight of God (1:22-29)

- III. Christ – the mystery of God (2:2b)
 - A. In Him dwells all the fullness of God bodily (2:9-10; John 1:14-16)
 - B. In Him are hidden all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge (2:3)

- IV. Christ – the inheritance of the saints (Col. 2:6; 1:12; Acts 20:32; 26:18; Eph. 1:11)
 - A. The saints – made qualified by the Father to become partakers in the light
 - 1. Who delivered us from the authority of darkness

2. Who transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love
- B. The saints learning to walk and labor in Christ
 1. By being rooted and built up in Him
 2. By being firmly established in the faith
 3. By taking heed not to be cheated

- V. Christ – the substance and reality of all shadows (types and figures) in the Old Testament (2:16-17; Heb. 10:1; 1 Cor. 5:7)

- VI. Christ – the life and the constituent of the new man (3:3-11; Eph. 2:14-16)
 - A. Created by Christ through His death and resurrection
 1. Having accomplished redemption and forgiveness of sins
 2. Having terminated the old man
 3. Obliterating the handwriting in ordinances (the law of commandments contained in ordinances – Eph. 2:15), nailing it to the cross
 4. Having despoiled (disarmed) principalities and powers
 - He made a show of them openly
 - Triumphant over them in it (or in Himself)
 5. Christ being all and in all
 - B. The need to put off the old man and to put on the new man by the believers (3:5-10; 12-17)
 1. By experiencing Christ's death on the cross
 - Putting to death the members which are on the earth (2:11; 3:5)
 - Putting off the former practices of the old man (3:8-9; Eph. 4:22)
 2. By experiencing the power of Christ's resurrection
 - Living and walking according to the Spirit
 - Putting on all the virtues of the humanity of Christ (3:12-14)
 3. By being constantly renewed
 - In the spirit of our mind (Eph. 4:23-24)
 - In the full knowledge of God
 - According to the image of Christ
 - In righteousness and true holiness
 4. By letting the peace of God rule in our hearts (3:14)
 5. By letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly (3:15)
 6. By doing all things in the name of the Lord Jesus and to the Lord (3:17, 23)
 7. By practicing the above in our daily life (3:18-25; 4:1)
 8. By continuing earnestly in prayer (4:2-4)
 9. By walking in wisdom toward those who are outside (4:5-6)
 - Redeeming the time
 - Letting our speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt

- VII. Paul and his co-workers demonstrating the reality of living the new man (4:7-18)