

# “CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY”

## COLOSSIANS 1:25-27

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### INTRODUCTION

Paul often calls himself a “minister of the gospel,” of God, or of Christ—but only here a minister/servant/deacon of the church. In this passage Paul speaks of his appointment as a minister and then talks of his message. In vv. 28-29 that we look at next week Paul gives his method and his purpose. Paul has just finished mentioning his sufferings for the sake of Christ’s body, the Church in v. 24, and he will revert to that theme at the end of v. 29 and 2:1. But for now he goes back to the idea he had mentioned at the end of v. 23—“I Paul was made a minister—servant—*diakonos*.”

So in this passage we look at the minister and his message. The message in the first century was newly revealed—it had been a **mystery** now made known by God. But, for us it is “the old, old story of Jesus and His love”—and more specifically the mysterious message can be boiled down to one primary truth: “**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”

### CHRIST IN YOU IS THE HOPE OF GLORY.

#### I. APPOINTMENT AS A MINISTER (25)

Ministry is a **Stewardship from God**.

1. Given to Paul for the benefit of believers
2. Given in order to **fulfill the word of God**.

#### II. ENTRUSTED WITH A MESSAGE (26-27)

The Message is a **mystery**.

##### A. Hiddenness of the mystery

1. From past ages
2. From past generations

##### B. Revelation of the Mystery (26b)

1. To the saints, among the Gentiles (26, 27)
2. Those to whom God willed to make known the mystery

##### C. The richness and glory of the mystery; Paul has much to say about the **riches** we have in Christ

- “riches of/consisting in God’s goodness” (Rom. 2:4)
- “riches of/ consisting in God’s glory” (both Rom. 9:23 & Eph. 3:16)
- “riches of/ consisting in generosity” (II Cor. 8:2)
- “riches of/ consisting in [God’s] grace” (both Eph. 1:7 & 2:7)
- “riches of/ consisting in Christ” (Eph. 3:8)
- “riches of/ consisting in the inheritance” (Eph. 1:18)
- “riches of/ consisting in the full measure of understanding” (Col. 2:2)
- “riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God” (Rom. 11:33)

##### D. The identification of the mystery

1. Christ **in**/among you-- Often in Ephesians and elsewhere Paul lays emphasis upon the believer being “**in Christ**” (see e.g. 1:2; Rom. 8:1). Rarer is the teaching found here that Christ is **in the believer**—Rom.8:10; II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17. But, notice how in Rom. 8:1 & 10 Paul uses both, and shows that the ideas are interrelated and inseparable.
2. The Hope of Glory
  - Biblical view of “Hope”—Confident expectation of what is certain to be!
  - Biblical view of “Glory”—here the future glory of believers with Christ

**“Glory”** here speaks of the future eschatological experience of one in whom Christ dwells; cf. reference to “the inheritance of the saints in light” in 1:12, the “presentation” of the believer “before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach” and “complete in Christ” (1:22, 28), “revealed with Him in glory” in 3:4, “the reward of the inheritance” in 3:24, and numerous other passages in Paul such as Rom. 2:7, 10; I Cor. 2:7; II Cor. 4:17; I Thes. 2:12; Heb. 2:10.

- Christ Himself is that hope. **The connection of the indwelling Christ with the believer’s hope and assurance of ultimate glorification may be compared with the indwelling Spirit being “the earnest of our inheritance” in Eph. 1:13-14.**

## CONCLUSION

Such a profound message in such a short span of verses!

The Gentile world floundered in darkness, but now had seen a great light!

They had become co-heirs (Eph. 3) with Jews in one body—the church.

THE richness of the glory of this revelation of truth is practically beyond comprehension and ability to express:

**CHRIST IN YOU IS THE HOPE OF GLORY.**