

**‘COLOSSAL SAVIOR!’**  
***(Our Great God & Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ)***  
**Studies in Colossians**

**The Greatest Mystery**

Seven (7) *mysteries* exist in Scripture (*1 Corinthians 13:2*): the mysteries of *the kingdom* (*Matthew 13*), the mystery of *the rapture* (*1 Corinthians 15:51*); the mystery of *the end of the age* (*Ephesians 1:9*), the mystery of *the Church* (*Ephesians 5:32*), the mystery of *lawlessness* (*2 Thessalonians 2:9*) and the mystery of *godliness* (*1 Timothy 3:16*) and *the glorious mystery* (*Colossians 1:26*).

And of course, leave it to the Roman Catholic Church to add other heretical, superfluous, unbiblical mysteries; a few *mysteries of the rosary* and other superstitious embellishments to the Bible, to complicate and convolute God's truth. But the biblical mysteries of God are the only ones to be concerned about. Besides that, the so-called *mysteries* added by Catholicism are not from God due to the fact they remain unsolvable ancient puzzles, so unlike biblical *mysteries* that are all resolved as soon as they are mentioned in Scripture. A biblical *mystery* is some great theological truth that was previously unknown until it is revealed – then it is solved and explained as soon as it's made known. It is only the enemy of God who wants to create unbiblical, unexplainable *mysteries* to be liturgically adored, making them religious distractions from Christ and God's Word. The **7 mysteries of God** in the New Testament are more than enough to bless and challenge God's people during this Church Age (*Pentecost to the Rapture, era*).

The greatest personal mystery for all true followers of Christ is also most personal: ***‘Christ in (us), the hope of glory’*** (*Colossians 1:27*). *Why? How? When? and Who?* Almighty God of the universe would even desire to indwell personally is an eternally mysterious question to ponder! Oh, it is awesome for *us* and assures *us* of *‘the hope of glory’*, but for God to care so much about us finite sinful beings, is beyond human comprehension! We are not that important in the eternal scheme of things. We are not the nicest habitation for the ultra-holy Lord of all to reside in. We are not even very appreciative of His indwelling presence, most of the time. So, yes, it is an amazing mystery to even try to comprehend! But, it is the very pursuit of just trying to solve this eternal mystery that humbles and secures and sanctifies the thoughtful child of God willing to probe this great mystery.

God encourages the expedition to know His *deeper truths* (*1 Corinthians 2:10*). He has supplied the Holy Spirit as our divine Guide for the venture. He has supplied the resources of the Bible and previous records, commentaries, writings, and sermons of others who have gone this way before us. He has promised spiritual and eternal riches beyond imagination to the ones willing to work hard in pursuit of the prize of knowing Him better (*Proverbs 2-3*).

Apostle Paul was one of many others to leave usual safe and easy neighborhood of *typical Christianity*, for the challenging, demanding, rewarding treasure hunt for ultimate understanding and appropriation of the riches of the *mind of Christ* (*1 Corinthians 1:16*). The only remaining mystery is **“What's keeping any child of God from doing whatever necessary to move on from ‘mediocre Christianity’ to the thrilling biblical expedition’** of solving the mystery of **‘Christ in us, the hope of glory’** (*Colossians 1:27, 2:2-3, 2:9-10, 3:1-4, 3:16-17, 4:3-4*). PtL

***“If you are raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above,***

*not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-3)*

## **The Treasure Hunt**

*(The search for God’s mysterious hidden riches)*

Colossians 1:24-2:3

### **The Treasure Hunter’s Calling**

*(The rewarding, agonizing, exhilarating, demanding, thrilling job of ministry)*

*“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of His body which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God, the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I labor striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” 1:24-29*

- Does understanding ‘suffering for being a Christian’ help when you see it as ‘inborn hostility’ that is just part of the depraved sin nature in unbelievers? *(How does this view point help?)*
- What ‘suffering for simply being a Christian’ have you endured? *(How has it affected you?)*
- Do you see all your personal assets (spiritual gifts, natural abilities, etc.) as God-given gifts entrusted to you as a ‘stewardship’ to use for God and His church? *(How does this affect the way you use your talents in daily living?)*
- Why is the motivation of ‘striving to present every person perfect in Christ’ when you use your God-given assets in ministry so important? *(What are some lesser motivations?)*
- Talk about how this approach to ministry ‘perfects’ people ‘in Christ’. *(Do you feel that you are being ‘perfected’ by ministries of CBF and other spiritual influences in your life? How?)*

### **The Treasure Hunter’s Conflicts**

*(Overcoming adversity, isolation, ignorance & piracy in ministry)*

*“For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding to the knowledge of the mystery of God (both of the Father and of Christ), in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words...”*

2:1-4

- In serving the Lord to ‘perfect’ others (especially your family, friends, co-workers) what are the ‘conflicts’ you must overcome and work through to fulfill your ministry to God and them?
- In this spiritual expedition to pursue the riches of knowing God and Christ better, who and/or what are the ‘pirates’ attempting deceive and dissuade and distract from the mission and steal the rewards and riches of God you’re in search of? How do you stay ‘on course’ if a ‘conflict’ comes? *(Any current or recent examples of how you successfully overcame conflict?)*
- In your opinion, is it worth it to continue the pursuit for spiritual excellence for yourself & others?

- **What keeps you going on days when it gets hard and taxing upon your *'walk with the Lord'*?**