

# THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

## The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

### *The Message & The Mission*

Colossians 1: 24-29

**Introduction:** We left off in verse 23 with Paul affirming the need to be well grounded, strongly built up, and immovable. In these last verses of chapter one he explains why this is so important and the true value (and cost) of seeing that it is accomplished.

#### PART ONE

##### I. Paul's Mission—Key Points in Verses 24-28

- A. The advancement of the Gospel is costly—Paul continues the tribulation that started with Jesus in the proclamation of the good news.
- B. Paul's role, as a herald and apostle, is to proclaim the truth about Jesus Christ and the message of the Gospel.
- C. The advent of the Gospel unveils a mystery hidden to OT believers: God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, will return to His human temples—Christ IN you, the hope of glory.
- D. This is an important message, worth every effort, and rich in its reward.

*This passage in Colossians could be the life verse of A. B. Simpson and the heritage of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. It is, in fact, a summary statement of who we are as a local church congregation. It focuses on the (1) deeper life, (2) necessity of strong Biblical instruction, (3) goal of mission—near and far.*

#### PART TWO

##### II. Systematic Proclamation of Biblical Truth is Essential

- A. Paul underscores the value of authoritative proclamation. The people of God need to have the discipline of attentive reception of expository and doctrinal preaching.
- B. It is the body of Biblical truth, the whole counsel of God, that must be proclaimed and built into the lives of followers of Jesus Christ. (The Logos)

##### III. The Message of the Gospel is a Wonderful Message of Deeper Life Truth

- A. We are containers of the living God—the wonderful mystery is CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY!
- B. The presence of Christ IN us brings into us, and us into, the Shekinah Glory of God Himself. We have become the earthly tabernacles, the Holy of Holies, in which He dwells.
- C. It is Christ IN us, living THROUGH us that is the wonderful mystery, so different from the OT, and so very different from trying to live for God as best we can!

##### IV. Our Mission is to Proclaim This Word so Others May Be Complete in Christ

- A. We proclaim Him—Jesus is our message and all truth relates to Him.
- B. Admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom—the proclamation of truth is for everyone. It includes admonishment, exhortation, and teaching wisely applied in each situation.
- C. That we may present everyone complete in Christ—complete: finished, perfect, having arrived. God wants us all to grow up into maturity; this passage expresses Paul's calling and gifting in this process—we are all involved in the mission.

*Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. <sup>25</sup> Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, <sup>26</sup> that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, <sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*

Colossians 1: 24-29  
(NASB)

