

Hidden Truth, Treasure and Triumph

Eugene F. Rueweler

Paul's great Colossian epistle, written from Rome, consists of only four brief chapters. These, with the six chapters of his Ephesian letter, present and unfold the fullness of the truth of this present dispensation. The truths previously presented by Paul, in his other letters, are brought to their full climax in Colossians and Ephesians.

In the first three chapters of Colossians the little word "*hid*" is used once in each chapter. Verse 26 of chapter one says "*Even the mystery which hath been **hid** from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints.*"

In the next chapter, in :3 we read, "*In Whom [Christ] are **hid** all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*" Finally, 3:3 declares "*For ye are dead, and your life is **hid** with Christ in God.*"

The word *manifest*, which seems to be just the opposite of *hid*, is used in the context of two of the three quotations above. That which Paul declares that was hidden is now made manifest. The fourth chapter of Colossians tells us how this is done. So we have a simple outline of this rich epistle.

First we are told of the hidden truth, the "*Mystery*" which fills up or completes the Word of God, doctrinally. This truth Paul could say "*now is made manifest to His saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles.*"

By revelation from Jesus Christ, this truth was made known to Paul, and through him made known to all who would hear. In the fourth chapter he asked for the prayers of the believers, "*that God would open ... a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ.*" In the last chapter of Ephesians (6:19) he repeated this prayer request in these words, "*that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.*" Without a doubt the truth of the Mystery, which is the Church the Body of Christ, is the Mystery or secret of Christ and of the Gospel. This is the truth that was *hid* but is now

revealed, and through us it must be proclaimed as we *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time”* (Colossians 4:5).

It would appear to be very evident that the *“mystery of Christ”* and the *“mystery of the gospel”* are one and the same thing – the *truth* of the Church as the Body of Christ which had been *HID* until made manifest through Paul.

According to 2:3 all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge have been *hid* in Jesus Christ. These *treasures* also are to be made manifest by the believer as we read in Colossians 3:16, *“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

As we proclaim the *TRUTH* may we also display the *TREASURES* of our wonderful Savior. Finally, in chapter 3 our Lord reveals the *TRIUMPH* of the believer when Christ is manifested. *“For ye are dead, and your life is **hid** with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear [be manifested] then shall ye also appear [be manifested] with Him in glory.”*

Can we limit this manifestation of Christ to the Rapture, or to His return in Glory? I believe that both are included. As members of His body we shall certainly share in and rejoice in the glory of His *coronation* as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (I Timothy 6:15).

The *TRUTH*, *TREASURE* and the *TRIUMPH* of Christ can also be made manifest when we recognize that *“We have put on the **new man** which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him ... Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.”*

Moments of Meditations in Colossians (1970) Chapter One

Taken from the *Bible Student's Notebook™*, a weekly Bible study publication available in two formats (electronic and printed)

www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

Study Shelf, PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963
1-800-784-6010 / www.StudyShelf.com

B I B L E S T U D E N T ' S P R E S S™
W i n d b e r , P e n n s y l v a n i a

