

“Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory”

Introduction. In all ages men have tried to establish their own basis for belief in immortality, and even in a future state of perfection. We yearn for immortality; we yearn for something better (Ecclesiastes 3:10-11). Humanity is depressed and discouraged because they simply do not have anything for which to hope (cf. Matthew 9:36).

Christ is the basis of immortality and glory. Words of grace and truth fell from Christ’s lips (John 1:17). He is the only one who perfectly satisfied the demands of conscience (John 8:46). He survived the last stage of earthly existence, and yet He lives (John 11:25). But your hope of glory depends not only on His resurrection, but also on whether Christ is “in” you.

I. *The Context Of “Christ In You”*

- A. God reconciled the Gentiles by the death of Christ (Colossians 1:21-22). Being presented in this manner is conditional (Colossians 1:23).
- B. Paul was a minister of the gospel, and rejoiced in his sufferings on behalf of the body of Christ, in which he identified himself with the sufferings of Christ (Colossians 1:24).
- C. He received his ministry as a stewardship from God to fully carry out the preaching of the word of God (Colossians 1:25-26).
- D. God willed to make known among the Gentiles this mystery, which is “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).
- E. Paul preached Christ both by warning and by teaching. His objective was to present every man perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29).

II. *What Is The “Glory” For Which We Hope?*

- A. It is a hope established by His resurrection.
 1. In Christ we have hope beyond this life.
 - a) His resurrection justifies and saves us (Romans 4:25; 5:10; 10:9), and gives us the hope of our resurrection (Romans 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15:19).
 - b) We will be partakers of the inheritance (Colossians 1:12; 3:24). The inheritance will be received when the Bride is presented to the Bridegroom (Revelation 21:2).
 2. While the apostle includes the intermediate state in this concept of glory (2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21, 23), his horizon was Christ’s second coming and the eternal bliss to follow (Romans 5:2; cf. 8:18-19; Colossians 3:4).
- B. It is the glory of the resurrected state (Romans 2:7; 8:23; Philippians 3:21; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:4).

1. It will be wonderful to not have to deal with sickness, error, fussing and squabbling brethren, and imperfect preachers.
2. We must endure and stand against this now, but it will be great to not have to think about it anymore.

III. **What Does "Christ In You" Mean?**

- A. The phrase "Christ in you" refers to the indwelling Christ.
 1. Christ is called "our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1-2; Hebrews 6:13-20; cf. Acts 4:12).
 2. The hope of glory depends on "Christ in you" who dwells in the heart of the individual child of God "by faith" (Ephesians 3:17).
- B. God willed that the "riches of the glory of this mystery" be made known among the Gentiles. The "mystery" is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Several passages show that this means Christ should be in the heart and life of the individual Christian.
 1. Romans 8:9-11.
 - a) The body is dead because of sin. If Christ is in me, the flesh is no longer in control of my actions.
 - b) If Christ dwells in me, my mortal body is a living instrument for service to God (Romans 6:19).
 2. 2 Corinthians 3:18.
 - a) Our personalities are changed by looking at Jesus and by the word of God, then making application as needed (Romans 12:2; Hebrews 12:2; James 1:25).
 - b) This is the same as taking away the stony heart, and having the law of God written on our hearts (Ezekiel 11:19; Jeremiah 31:31-34).
 - c) When people are not dedicated and strong like they should be, they show that they do not have the law of God in their hearts.
 3. Galatians 2:20.
 - a) "I" is *ego*, a term that psychologists and psychiatrists use to describe the inner personality of man.
 - b) My ego, says Paul, is dead. It no longer controls my life. Christ now lives in me, and is the controlling force of my existence.

IV. **What Are The Results Of Having Christ In Your Hearts?**

- A. Preaching "Christ in you, the hope of glory" is not an abstract or fluff doctrine.
 1. For Paul, preaching Christ meant "warning and teaching" in order to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28).
 2. There was no separation between doctrine and ethics in Paul's preaching. Preaching Christ means exhorting to godly living.

B. When Christ is "in" the individual Christian, spirituality is manifested in acting as Christ acted (Romans 15:2-3, 7; 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 3:12-13).

Conclusion. Does Christ reign in your heart? Is your life dominated by Christ? Is your life devoted to His service? We must keep our hearts holy, for He will not dwell in an "evil heart of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:12). The heart is Christ's chamber of presence; therefore, we should keep it with all diligence (Proverbs 3:5). You need to drink this phrase in and let us know if you want to live with Christ in your heart. If you do, then come to God in obedience.