

Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

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To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

Glory refers to a state of being exalted. When God created man in the beginning, He “*crowned him with glory and honor*” by making man “*a little lower than the angels*” and setting him over the whole material creation (Hebrews 2:7). An infinitely greater glory, however, awaits those who trust and obey Jesus.

God called us by means of Christ’s gospel for this very reason: “for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14). When we obey the gospel and begin to become more like Jesus, we are “transformed from glory to glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

But there is more! Salvation in Christ is “with eternal glory” (2 Timothy 2:10). Therefore Paul says the same body that is “sown (buried) in weakness” will be “raised in glory” (1 Corinthians 15:43).

Our hope of glory rests on the fact that Christ is in us (Colossians 1:27). The late brother Burton Coffman observed that there are eight New Testament expressions referring to the state of the saved: Christ is in you; you are in Christ; God is in you; you are in God; the Holy Spirit is in you; you are in the Holy Spirit; the mind of Christ is in you; and the word of Christ is in you (commentary on Colossians 1:27, at studylight.org).

Since our hope of eternal glory is Christ in us, Paul preached Christ, “*warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect (mature, complete) in Christ Jesus* (Colossians 1:28).

Is Christ in you? Are you in Christ?

Preach Jesus

Preachers in the book of Acts preached the Lord Jesus (Acts 11:20). Paul determined to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). We are to preach Jesus, His teachings, His life as our example, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension to heaven where “*He always lives to make intercession for them*” (Hebrews 7:25).

Preaching Jesus to the Ethiopian treasurer included preaching baptism (Acts 8:35-38). When the Ephesians “*learned Christ,*” they learned a moral and holy lifestyle, different from the pagans (Ephesians 4:17-20).

Biblically preaching how husbands and wives are to treat each other (Ephesians 5:22-33), or our conduct in the workplace (Colossians 3:22-24), or responding to unjust suffering (1 Peter 2:21), or being kind, gentle, or forgiving (Ephesians 4:32), is all related to Christ.

If we preach Christ, we will preach baptism and a moral lifestyle. But preaching baptism and a moral lifestyle without Jesus is fruitless.

Preachers may neglect other essential things, but no one can preach Jesus too much.

--Cecil May, Jr. (Montgomery, AL) via *Preacher Talk*

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People do not drift toward holiness

Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord.

We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith.

--D. A. Carson (via adam4d.com)

PRAISE THE LORD

"In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 116:19).

"Praise the Lord." Many people blurt that expression out when something good happens. However, for Christians the motivating factor behind those three words is deeper. That praise is based on an understanding of what God has done, is doing, and will do.

Praise the Lord, because I know that He hears me and He pays attention to me (Psalm 116:1-2). Many people find this hard to believe. How can God hear and listen to every person who calls upon Him at the same time? I believe that God can and does hear and focus on every single person at the same time. He is the all-powerful God and He is outside of time; therefore, God is not limited as we are.

Praise the Lord, because He is righteous. There is no one like Him, for He has no darkness in Him. My Lord is faithful, consistent, unchanging, and completely trustworthy (Psalm 116:5).

Praise the Lord, because He is gracious and compassionate (Psalm 116:5). God demonstrated His grace and compassion by sacrificing His only begotten Son for me. He did that when I didn't love Him and was His enemy (Romans 5:6-11). God desires that all turn to Him and live (Ezekiel 18:23). He desires this so much that He provided a way of reconciliation through Jesus.

Praise the Lord, because He has rescued me from death (Psalm 116:8). I will not face being cast into the outer darkness away from the presence of the Lord (Matthew 22:13 & 25:30).

Praise the Lord, because of all the benefits that He has blessed me with (Psalm 116:12). I will praise Him for my salvation, my being His son, my peace, my joy, my physical and spiritual families and His working and changing me so that I am a better servant in His kingdom.

--Ed Wittlif (Denver, CO)