

Message Notes

Jesus: the mystery of God

Introduction - *"Quarterly Financial Update at Hope. YES!!!!"*

Today's Message
Jesus: The Mystery of God
Colossians 2:1-5

The Fight (Colossians 2:1)
Colossians 4:12

What caused Paul suffering?
Acts 9:11-16

2 Corinthians 11:18-33

The Goal (Colossians 2:2a)
"encouraged in heart"

"united in love"

The Source (Colossians 2:2b-3)
It's all about Jesus!

What is the "mystery" of God?
Colossians 1:25-27
Ephesians 3:2-6
Ephesians 2:11-22

The Treasure of Christ

The Fear (Colossians 2:4)
"fine sounding arguments"

The Hope (Colossians 2:5)
"orderly and stable faith"

Gospel Applications - *"What are the 'fine-sounding arguments' within you that are trying to lead you astray from a orderly, stable faith?"*

How is the mystery of Jesus, in all his treasure, the answer?"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Colossians 2:1-5

¹I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. ²My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁵For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Colossians 1:24-29

²⁴Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness - ²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

2 Corinthians 11:28-29

²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

Ephesians 3:2-6

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Quarterly Financial Update at Hope

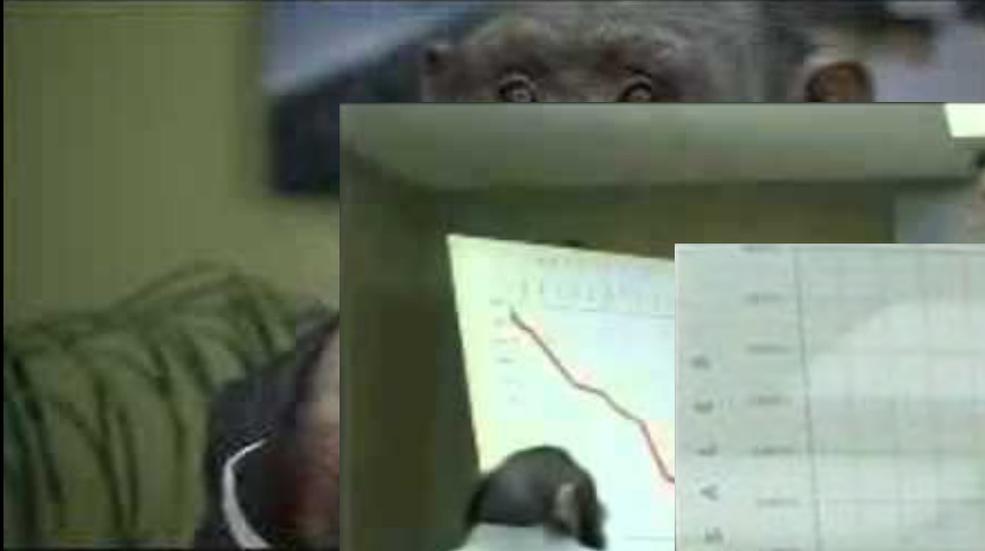
Quarterly Financial Update at Hope



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 - Invite all Hopesters to be part of the financial family!

Quarterly Financial Update at Hope



DEFCON 5

Normal, Peacetime Military Readiness.
[NO SPECIAL REQUIREMENT'S]

DEFCON 4

Normal, Increased Intelligence And Heightened National
Security Measures. [INCREASE JAFFA]

DEFCON 3

Increase Military Readiness Above Normal.
[INCREASE JAFFA AND BUILD SHIPS]

DEFCON 2

Further Increase Military Readiness Just Below Maximum Readiness.
[INCREASE JAFFA / SHIPS AS WELL AS SET STANCE TO AGGRESSIVE OR DEFENSIVE]

DEFCON 1

Maximum Readiness. War Imminent Or Ongoing Attack On Dark Resurgence.
[RECOMMENDED TO CHOOSE AGGRESSIVE OR DEFENSIVE STANCE NOW]

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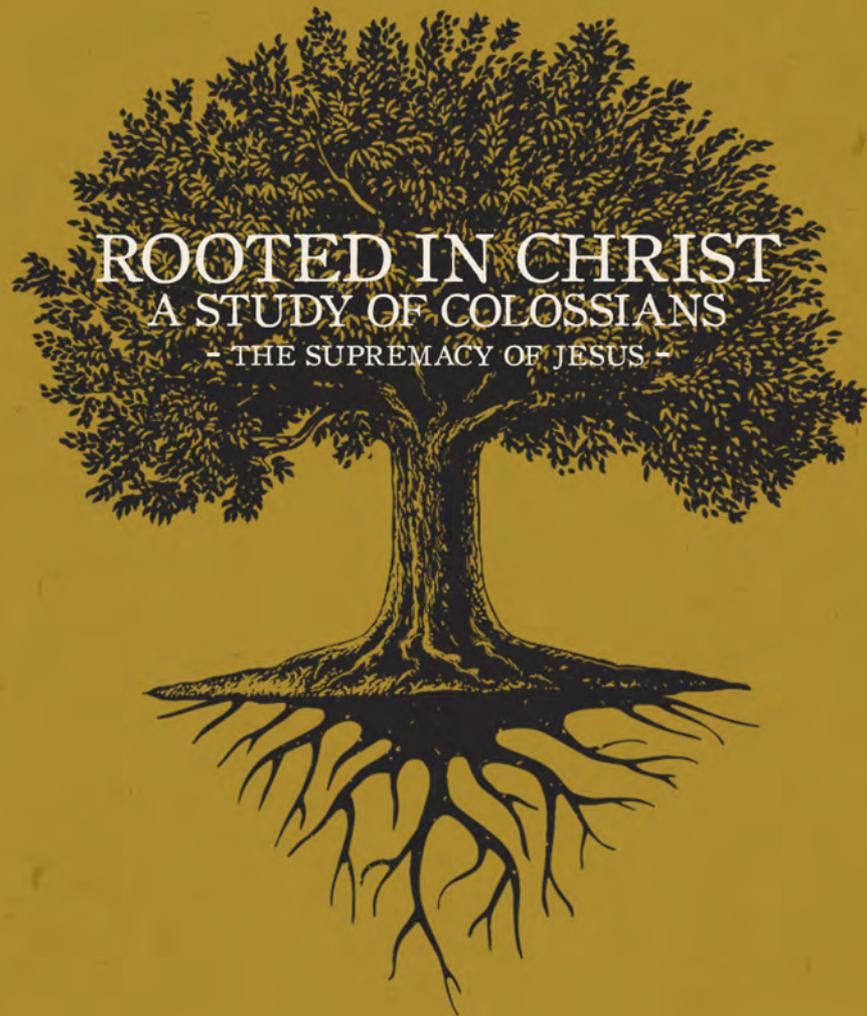
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ROOTED IN CHRIST

A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

- THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS -



CHRISTOLOGY

Colossians 1:24-29

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Today's Message:
Jesus: *the mystery of God*
Colossians 2:1-5

Colossians 2:1-5

The Fight

The Goal

The Source

The Fear

The Hope

Jesus: the mystery of God

The Fight

Colossians 2:1

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ἀγών, ἀγῶνος

(agon, agonos)

- ① the sense 'athletic competition' transfers to the moral and spiritual realm a **competition, contest, race**
- ② a struggle against opposition, **struggle, fight**

~ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 17.

Paul's Fight

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

What caused Paul's suffering?

Acts 9:11-16

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

What caused Paul's suffering?

Acts 9:11-16

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

What caused Paul's suffering?

2 Corinthians 11:18-33

¹⁸Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. ¹⁹You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! ²⁰In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face. ²¹To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more.

What caused Paul's suffering?

2 Corinthians 11:18-33

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.

What caused Paul's suffering?

2 Corinthians 11:18-33

²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

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³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. ³³But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

[This] was an event which emphasized, at the very beginning of his ministry, his own abject weakness and frailty: Paul the Apostle who was ignominiously lowered in a fish-basket at dead of night in order to escape the Jewish enemies of the gospel was none other than the man who as Saul of Tarsus, the arrogant Jewish persecutor and blasphemer of Christ, had ostentatiously approached this same city of Damascus with authority from the high-priest to arrest and manhandle Christ's followers. The contrast between Saul of Tarsus and Paul the Apostle could not have been more striking, nor the contrast between his manner of approach to Damascus and his manner of exit from it.

Jesus: the mystery of God

The Goal

Colossians 2:2a

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Abraham Lincoln



...Let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man-this race and that race and the other race being inferior, and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position...Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal.

Jesus: the mystery of God

The Source

Colossians 2:2b-3

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What is the “mystery” of God?

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Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) —
¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

What is the “mystery” of God?

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

What is the “mystery” of God?

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

What is the “mystery” of God?

Ephesians 3:2-6

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Paul wants the Colossians to know “the mystery of God” (2:2; cf. 1:26–27; 4:3). In modern parlance, a “mystery” refers to a whodunit or some impenetrable puzzle. In the Colossians’ pagan religious environment, the word “mystery” referred to information about initiatory rites and symbols—things that had to be kept hidden from the uninitiated. Paul’s use of this word accords with Jewish usage. The mystery is something related to God’s purposes, which can only be imparted by divine revelation. Humans cannot know or discover this mystery on their own, no matter how clever they might be. For ages no one, not even generations of faithful Jews, guessed the course that God was heading, although there were signposts along the way (Rom. 11:33–36). All that God intended to do was quite inconceivable to human minds. The mystery went against all human reason simply because it was above all human reason....

The key element of the mystery that is stressed in this text is that the riches of God's glory are among the Gentiles — “Christ in you” (1:27). What made this so mysterious to many Jews was their conviction that the “adoption as sons ... the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law ... and the promises” belonged to Israel and to Israel alone (Rom. 9:4). The “Christ” also belonged to the race of Israel (9:5), and most took for granted that his purpose in coming was to restore glory and privilege to Israel (see Acts 1:6). Christ among the Gentiles and for the Gentiles seriously undermined most Jewish expectations.

It seemed at best to be a betrayal; if true, God was acting in contradiction to an agreed course of action. Gentiles were “separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12), and many presumed that God intended to leave things that way. When, therefore, Gentiles began to respond to the gospel, it outraged many Jews and created a serious identity crisis for many Jewish Christians. It also brought into question the integrity of God. Had God reneged on his promises to Israel and abandoned her for the Gentiles?

The mystery revealed to Paul was that God intended to save the Gentiles *from the very beginning*. Christ “among the Gentiles” was not Plan B after the gospel had been rejected by Jews. Rather, it was God’s eternal purpose... Christ “among the Gentiles” and “the hope of glory” for them was startling news to many Jews. For Gentiles, it was the good news that should cause them to rejoice.

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 125–126.



The
SNOB

This universal publication of the mystery makes Christianity disagreeable to anyone who wants to be part of an elite group with exclusive prerogatives – whether as a special, holy people that excludes Gentiles or as exceptional individuals with unique knowledge kept hidden from the vulgar herd. Kitty Ferguson writes, “To find that the experience of God reported by a rocket scientist or a saint may to a significant degree be consistent with the experience of God reported by an illiterate farm labourer, a punk rocker, or Miss America is jarring to our sense of the appropriateness of things.”

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Jesus: the mystery of God

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Colossians 2:2b-3

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Jesus: the mystery of God

The Fear

Colossians 2:4

⁴I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁵For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

The image features a grayscale, high-contrast portrait of a smiling man's face, which serves as the background. The word "DECEPTION" is prominently displayed across the center of the face in large, white, 3D-style block letters with a black outline. The overall aesthetic is dark and dramatic, with the bright text and smile contrasting sharply against the dark background.

DECEPTION

Jesus: the mystery of God

The Hope

Colossians 2:5

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Gospel Applications

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What are the 'fine-sounding arguments' within you that are trying to lead you astray from an orderly, stable faith?

How is the mystery of Jesus, in all his treasure, the answer?