Christ Inside Mindedness

*Colossians 1:25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. 27 To 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.*

The mystery was hidden from the Gentiles, and to a large part it is still hidden today. The Christian church deals with so many issues, yet often does not realize and life in the mystery. Let me explain for a little bit.

We are born in sin and shaped by inequity. We are of the earth, earthly and conditioned by the matrix of reality given to us by our world. We live in a dimension of the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil, contrasting, defining and trying to be good. Yet we are told in scripture that there is no good thing within us. We are dead in trespasses and sins. And that it the focus of much of the church. Sin! How do we repent from it, become saved from it and live without sin as our constant companion.

I was raised in the church and have heard my share of sermons on repenting from my wayward activities. I have shared the alter with entire congregations who came forward for rededication, repentance, sanctification, and event by other names that amounted to the same thing. In many circles people get born again, again, again, again - in an endless cycle of repentance, rededication and the best of intentions, but who are not only aware of their sin that drives them to the alter, but of the reality that they will be back, yes they will need to come back to re-find Christ and repent once more.

In this ritual of trying to find Christ we evidence that we are continually getting lost or He is. So, where is Christ? We have other means of identifying Christ's location. We presume that, since we are the only church that is right, that Jesus is with us. His location is defined by our rightness, our doctrine, our practice and our orthodoxy. And yet, by the very flavor of that competitive exercise of being right, I wonder if Jesus is more glorified or if we are by our rightness?

Jesus did not die for us so that we could have a serial relationship of His coming to us to get us straight one more time before going away to do other God tasks. He died to deal with the issue of sin, that sin should not have dominion over us anymore. Ever! Grace is not just that God forgives us even though we do not deserve it. It is the grace of God, the impartation of His work on Calvary does not just forgive our past but empowers or present and our future. The work of grace is not a one-time event but a resident presence of He who is our life. Grace empowers and becomes the agency of life itself.

Transformation is not that the caterpillar joins the butterfly club but that it becomes the butterfly. Often we have been told that the church is His body as though it is a picture or analogy. It is like His body or a body in which the function of the distinct parts make a whole. Now to illustrate function or to be analogous of the function of a body is one thing, but that is not what is being conveyed by the text above. Here is the mystery - Christ is in you, you no longer liv by the mind of the flesh but by the mind of Christ. We which we living dead men, ruled by the law, are alive in Christ and live by His life.

The phrase "in Christ" appears 126 times in the NT, is the “profound mystery” (Col 1:27). We are one with God. NOW. He is in us and we are in Him. He can be no more present than He is. The struggle to be near God is an illusion brought to us by the carnal mind. You cannot become any nearer than you already are. What you can do is stop struggling with it and tune into it. Once we grasp this reality, the struggle to find God, locate Him and get His presence to come to us is over.

Once we grasp this it will transform our lives and our worship. We worship, not to get God to come to us, but to release the transcendent presence of His spirit through us. He is here, He is abiding, and He is now!

Over 130 times the New Testament uses the term "in Him." Yet this relationship was a mystery to the law and the Old Covenant. God dwelt in the Ark of the Covenant, Located in the Most Hole Place. He is no longer there. He is in those who by faith open their lives to the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

Jesus operated as an extension of the Father. In everything that He did and spoke He did so with divine authority. He saw himself as the manifestation of the Eternal God. His expressions were those of the creator God. He was the manifestation of all the God is. He said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." So when He said "I", there was no separation inferred. "I (a glorious expression of the Christ) and the Father are one."

Is it less accurate for us to say that the "I Am" of all creation is present within us as an expression of the presence and work of God on this planet? Are we not to be instruments of His Glory and ministers of His presence?

When Moses was on the mountain talking to God, he tried to define God so he could talk to Pharaoh about Him, but all He got from God is, "I AM." That is the best and most accurate description available. He is. He is more than a concept, a location or a doctrine. He is everywhere and everything. We were created for Him and by Him. The sense of separation and of the need to define is because of the separation from God in the garden. That issue of separation is dealt with on Calvary as Jesus, who was the embodiment of all that God is, took our place and gave us His. We are in Him and He is in us.

Why then do we define ourselves as imperfect, incomplete wretches? We are one with Him who designed us to contain Himself. Not a little bit, not partially, not potentially, but in Christ and He in me, here, now and for eternity.

Because of this we are capable of fellowship, worship and communion at all times, anywhere. The key is to realize this and to move from sin consciousness to God consciousness, knowing that He abides. Forever!