

CHRIST IN US

Message by Roy Mahembe
Christian Centre Abbotsford



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Introduction

As we heard in the last two weeks is it commonly believed that this book was written by Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. Regardless of his current circumstances Paul had a strong compassion to see transformation and liberty for the body of Christ at Colosse.

- ☐ Praying for them constantly Col 1:3,9 **“and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding”**
- ☐ Paul wanted to make sure they had a full revelation of Christ and what He had accomplished for them, while warning them against false teaching.
- ☐ Paul believed that the Colossians’ best defence against false teaching was for them to be fully aware of who Christ is and all they had in Christ leading to them being **rooted in faith and love.**
- ☐ **It is important for us also to know what we have and believing it to the degree that we act like it:**

What happened when we believed on Christ? And how do we walk it out?

- ☐ Paul’s heart for God’s people was for them to awaken to the full understanding of this truth. This was his passion and inspiration for ministry.
- ☐ **Understanding who we are helps us to walk out the victory that we have in Christ!**
 - i. We received a new identity when we became a new creation.
 - ii. We realize our new identity through renewing our mind in the Word.
 - iii. We rest in our new identity as we walk with Christ.
 - iv. Walking out our new identity in Christ is a process.
 - v. Through our relationship with God in Christ.

Paul’s heart for God’s people

Text: Colossians 1:24-2:6 NKJV

Col 1:29 *“Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.”*

Three key aspects in Paul’s letter we are focusing on:

- 1) **Understanding who Christ is,**
- 2) **Understanding who we are in Him,**
- 3) **Walking out our faith journey with Christ.**

When we do that, I believe this will help us understand Paul’s heart for God’s people, a clear picture of **“Christ in Us”**.

Text:

Sacrificial Service for Christ

*²⁴I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God, ²⁶the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷To 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.** ²⁸Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹To this end I also labour, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.*

Col 1:24-26 NKJV

Not Philosophy but Christ

²For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁴Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Col 2:1-6 NKJV

1. Understanding who Christ is

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he is there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals, and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

Col 1:18-20 MSG

Jesus declares in **Luke 4:18-19** NKJV *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

- ☐ Liberty in our health, finances, relationships and every area of our lives.
- ☐ We now live in a time when all our debts to God have been cancelled and all the things the devil stole from us have been returned.
- ☐ Liberty leads to a transformed life.
- ☐ Every good work that Jesus did amongst the people was motivated by His heart of compassion .
- ☐ His mandate to see them set free from the sickness and yoke of bondage the devil had placed over them.

- ❑ **Acts 10:38 AMPC**, *"How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him."*
- ❑ After triumphing and making a show of the enemy Jesus told His disciples to do the same. This is the same message that Paul relayed to the Colossians and applies to us today.
- ❑ We also have been given the authority and mandate to use His Name and operate by that power to enforce the devil's defeat wherever we go! (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:17-18**).

What it means? => New Identity in Christ

- ❑ **How is it possible for us to carry out this mandate?** Jesus said these signs of authority accompany those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God!
- ❑ We have become one with **Him (1 Cor 6:17)**. The fact is from that moment, we are all anointed to become **His feet, eyes and hands to fulfill his plan and purpose**.
- ❑ **The truth is we, have been set free, from all our sins**—past, present, and even future—are already forgiven. As a result of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have that same anointing and power within us!
- ❑ Jesus is the light of the world, now because He is in us we also become the light. We should let our light shine in the darkest places and not shun dark places as is the natural tendency of believers.
- ❑ We are the salt of the world (3 characteristics of salt, it heals (restore & reconcile), gives flavour and preserves) .
- ❑ This is our new DNA through Christ, Jesus now works through us to restore, reconcile and preserve life. (Joseph to his brothers, "God sent me ahead of you to preserve life").
- ❑ We should not second guess who we are, **when we know who we are, we know what To do**.
- ❑ We are salt and light, His feet, eyes and mouth, His temple, His vessels. We are overcomers because he who is in us has overcome the world.
- ❑ When you believe in Christ you are born into Christ. Family if we can believe this our lives will be radically transformed.

PS. If anyone thinks or assumes that they are not anointed to do the same, then we need to do something about it today, not tomorrow! Let today be the day of your salvation!

2. Understanding who we are in Christ

Paul so earnestly desired to see the maturity of believers.

- ❑ **Col 1: 24** *Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:*
- ❑ **Col 1: 25** *Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God, which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God.*
- ❑ **Col 1: 26** *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:*

- ❑ **Col 1 :27 To whom God would make known what the riches of the glory of this mystery is among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

Christ in us, the hope of glory

- ❑ **“Christianity the only religion in which the one who is worshipped lives in the worshipper, a mystery revealed to us, praise God.”**
- ❑ Christ, by the Holy Spirit, takes up permanent residence in all believers.
- ❑ This is a wonderful truth that Paul desires the believers to fully appreciate.
- ❑ This is amazing! The Lord’s commitment to indwell us and never leave us or forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**) is a clear indication of His great love for us. By God’s grace may we know this.
- ❑ The mystery of Christ dwelling in us was a mystery to the Old Testament saints. They could not have imagined in their wildest dreams that God Almighty would possess us in all His power and might. In contrast, the New Testament believer has now had these mysteries made “manifest.” Sad to say, most Christians have not conceived this either. Hence Paul’s letter.

Hope of glory

Jesus is in us already, the hope of Glory. He wants the church to grasp this.

Hope = ELPIS “to anticipate positively”

Glory = The purpose, presence, power and virtue of the Holy Spirit

- ❑ At some point we were without the glory of God, as the book of Romans says we sinned and came short of the glory God, but now that we have received Him, the glory of God has been restored, and we are now reconciled to the Father.
- ❑ If we continually meditate upon this with all its implications, how could we ever be lonely or discouraged? Christ in us the hope of glory, the spirit of the Lord is in us, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.
- ❑ Depression and self-pity would cease! What would it even matter what others think of us if we understand how much Jesus thinks of us?

Who we are in Christ: The mystery revealed: Christ in us, the hope of glory

- ❑ Christ is in us by faith and living through us. **Galatians 2:20**, it is no longer I who live but Christ lives through me by faith.
- ❑ We manifest the glory of God in our lives as we let Jesus live through us. The word also says even creation itself groans and awaits eagerly for the manifestation of the sons of God. **Romans 8:19**
- ❑ Right now, we are like Jesus.
- ❑ There are two practical steps we could take to help to comprehend this truth.

Step 1: Renewing our minds to this truth

Step 2: Having faith in the finished work of the cross.

Step 1 : Mind Renewal

- ❑ We are already complete in Him but we need to become manifested sons of God by being renewed in the spirit of our minds by the word of God. **(Ephesians 4:24)**
- ❑ Mind renewal is not cramming scriptures but a change of mind and seeing who God is, and who we are in Christ. We are righteous, holy and above reproach. **Let us see ourselves that way.**
- ❑ **Example:** Only David looked at Goliath differently but the whole army of the Israelites were required to know / cram up the Tora (Genesis, Exodus, Levi, Numbers & Duet). Hebrews 4:2
- ❑ When we train ourselves to be in the habit of meditating on the scriptures that reminds us of our new life in Christ Jesus, the flow of faith from inside our spirit-man will begin to dominate our thoughts and words.
- ❑ As we speak these truths, from the conviction of our hearts - we will walk in the reality of them! When we align our thoughts with the truth of God's Word, our spirit-man will dominate over the flesh nature.
- ❑ Seeing things the way God says they are – If the Word says it, it is so!
 - i. Let's choose to see God for who He is.
 - ii. Seeing ourselves as God sees us. God is a Spirit and sees us through our new, born-again spirits.
 - iii. Let's choose to see life as the Word reveals it.
- ❑ If God says I am, I am. I am healed. I am blessed. I am redeemed. I am righteous. I am wise. I am set apart. I am a citizen of heaven. I am more than a conqueror. I am victorious. I am not ashamed. I can do all things through Christ. I am loved. I am accepted. I am seated with Christ in heavenly places. I am a child of His love. I am forgiven. I have the mind of Christ, and I hear Him. I am at peace with God. I am

Step 2: Put Faith in the finished work of the cross – the blood of Jesus

- ❑ Romans 3:25 says we are made right with God when we believe in the blood of Jesus, and what it has accomplished for us! In other words - we are to have faith in the power of the blood of Jesus Christ!
- ❑ Sin had to be dealt with, and it was dealt with, through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are now **holy, blameless, and unproveable in His sight**. Ushering Christ to be able to live in us, we **are above reproach in His sight**. Col 1: 22.
- ❑ No amount of effort, human works, or mankind's own righteousness could bring this to pass. We were re-born into victory, born into authority, born into wealth, born into health, born into righteousness, born into wisdom, born into the new covenant, born into the family of God.
 - i. We did not do anything to earn it.
 - ii. We did not do anything to deserve it.
 - iii. We inherited this blessing in Christ.
- ❑ "That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me." - Col 1:29 MSG

- ❑ The communication of our faith becomes effective by us acknowledging the good thing already in us in Christ (Christ in us) - Philemon 1:6
- ❑ So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, (Ephesians 3:17)

3. Walking out our faith journey with Christ.

- ❑ **Col 2:2** *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.*
- ❑ **Full assurance of understanding** - To make certain, to pursue constantly. To know thoroughly. To perceive and comprehend.
- ❑ **Acknowledge** means - Act of admitting and recognition of another existence. It is already a reality that every believer is indwelt by the Spirit of Christ
- ❑ We need to keep pressing toward the mark (Philippians 3:14) until we receive the highest level of acknowledgment, understanding, and assurance possible
- ❑ Within every born again person is a new creation waiting to be released (2 Cor 5:17). All it takes is someone who believes.

Being knit together by love : Faith works by love

- ❑ "Faith works hand in hand with love. God gave His son by love, and it is through putting faith in this truth that we receive our salvation.
- ❑ As believers in Jesus, we are part of a body, and there are some things that only function properly when we come together as a body in love.
- ❑ "True saving faith is more than a conviction of the mind. It transforms the heart to love"
- ❑ *Quote from John Wesley*

True Christianity is to 'have the mind of Christ,' which is demonstrated in love for God and neighbour. The real freedom of the Christian is not just the freedom from guilt or release from the pangs of hell but the freedom to love with the love of God Himself shed abroad in our hearts by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Freedom as 'nothing higher and nothing lower than this...**love governing the heart and life, through all our tempers, words, and actions**'"

Being knit together by love : God dwells in us by love. – **1 John 4:7-17**

"7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Wisdom to walk out our faith journey

Col 2:3 *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Col 2:4 *And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.*

- ☐ Since we are in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17) and He is in us (Christ in us), all the “wisdom and knowledge” of God is in us.
- ☐ This wisdom is in our born-again spirits. It does not have to just stay there. We can draw it out. We can draw on that wisdom as we abide in Christ.
- ☐ We need to be grounded in the foundational principles of the Gospel so that no one could move us as well.
- ☐ Once we get the revelation that Christ is in us in His fullness and that we are complete in Him, how can we ever move away from this truth? To what can it compare?

Call to action : Lets do an inventory of who Christ is in us .

Col 2: 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

- ☐ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? Walk and act like it, produce fruit like it. (2 Corinthians 12:5).
- ☐ To walk in the truth of Christ in us and being an overcomer and authority starts with believing Jesus is the Son of God. The word says in 1 John 5:5 - who is he who overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the son of God.
- ☐ And when you believe you acknowledge your need for a saviour, and you are willingly to be on journey with Christ.
- ☐ If you shall believe, confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Son of God, then you shall be saved and when the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. Romans 10:11.

Final thoughts

- ☐ What happened when we believed on Christ? We were created new, destined to succeed, and received an inheritance in the family of God!
- ☐ We received a new identity when we believed on Christ. We realize our new identity through renewing our mind in the Word. We rest in our new identity as we walk with Christ.
- ☐ Let's look beyond the exterior in ourselves and others and help bring into reality who we are in Christ. (2 Cor :5:17)

Conclusion:

We have all come short of the glory God, let us return there.

How do we see God?

How do we see ourselves?

How do we approach life?

Prayer

[10] We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you will become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness! [11] And we pray that you would be energized with all his explosive power from the realm of his magnificent glory, filling you with great hope. **Colossians 1:10-11 TPT**