

Colossians 1:25-29 & 2:1-3

25-26 of which I became a **MINISTER** according to the **STEWARDSHIP** from God which was **GIVEN to me** for you, to fulfill the word of God, the **MYSTERY** which has been **HIDDEN** from ages and from generations, but **now has been REVEALED to His SAINTS**.

• **Ephesians 1:9** "Having made _____ to us the _____ of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed (decided) in Himself."

• **I Timothy 4:6** "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good _____ of Jesus Christ, _____ in the _____ of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."

• **Ephesians 6:19** "And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my _____ boldly to make known the _____ of the _____."

Definition: "The MYSTERY which has been HIDDEN" - In the word of God, "mystery" means something previously hidden or not known, that is now **REVEALED** by God. **This Scripture says, "now has been REVEALED to His SAINTS"** and Ephesians 3:3-5 says the mystery has been revealed "to His holy apostles and prophets," so we see that it is only revealed to a special group of people. **Who are His SAINTS?** The Bible says that **ALL true believers in Jesus Christ are His "saints"** or "holy ones" because God Himself has **MADE** us **HOLY**.

• **Ephesians 3:3-5** "How that by revelation He made _____ to me the _____ (as I wrote before in a few words, by which, when you read, you may understand my _____ in the _____ of Christ), which in other ages was _____ made _____ to the sons of men, as it has _____ been _____ by the _____ to His _____ apostles and prophets."

• **Romans 16:25-26** "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the _____ of the _____ which was kept _____ since the world began, but now has been made manifest (known), and by the prophetic scriptures has been made _____ to all nations..."

• **Luke 10:21** "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, 'I praise You, _____, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have _____ these things from the [*worldly*] wise and prudent and _____ them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed _____ in Your sight.'"

Definition: "I became a MINISTER according to the STEWARDSHIP from God" - "**Minister**" means servant. "**Stewardship**" means taking care of or managing someone else's business or property. God has made **Paul, and ALL of us**, ministers or servants of His precious gospel, and workers in His kingdom. The gospel and the kingdom do not belong to us, but come from God, and **He expects us to TAKE CARE of His BUSINESS here on EARTH**.

• **Ephesians 3:7** "Of which I became a _____ according to the _____ of the _____ of _____ given to me by the effective working of His power."

• **Romans 15:15-16** "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace _____ to _____ by _____, That I might be a _____ of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, _____ the _____ of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified (made holy) by the _____ Spirit."

Definition: "SANCTIFICATION" - HOLINESS, PURITY, being **SET APART** for God and His use. The

word "SAINT" comes from the same word as "sanctified" in the Greek.

27-28 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.** Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may PRESENT every man PERFECT** in Christ Jesus.

•**Galatians 2:20** "I have been _____ with _____; it is no longer _____ who live, but _____ in _____; and the _____ which I now _____ in the flesh I _____ by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

•**Romans 8:10** "And if _____ is in _____, the _____ is _____ because of sin, but the _____ is _____ because of righteousness."

•**I John 3:24** "Now he who keeps His commandments abides (dwells) in _____, and He _____ him. And by this we know that He _____ in us, by the _____ whom He has _____ us."

Definition: "Christ LIVES IN ME" – How does Christ live in us? By the Holy Spirit, who is also called **the Spirit of Christ.** Some verses use the words "dwell" or "abide" instead of LIVE, but the meaning is the same. The Bible says **the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ) comes to LIVE IN YOU the moment you accept Jesus as your Savior.** I John 4:13 and 15, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God" has the Spirit of God dwelling in them. Ephesians 1:12-13 says that first, you HEARD the WORD of truth, then you TRUSTED in Christ (put your faith in Him, received Him as Savior), then AS SOON as you BELIEVED, you were SEALED with the Holy Spirit. "Sealed" means when you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, **YOUR SPIRIT** is born again, and the **HOLY SPIRIT comes to live in you** as a **GUARANTEE or promise** until your **BODY** is redeemed and made perfect at the **RESURRECTION** (See Romans 8:22-23, Eph. 4:30). According to Romans 8:9, there is no such thing as a Christian who does not have the Holy Spirit living (dwelling) inside of him. **You CANNOT BE a Christian, you CANNOT be SAVED, and NOT have the Holy Spirit IN YOU,** because it says you are "not His" if you don't have His Spirit in you. The **Holy Spirit of God** comes to **LIVE WITHIN your spirit,** and **YOUR SPIRIT** is "born again" when you receive Jesus as your Savior.

•**Romans 8:9** "But you are not in the flesh but in the _____, if indeed the _____ of _____ dwells in you. Now if anyone does _____ have the _____ of _____, he is _____ His."

•**II Corinthians 1:22** "Who also has _____ us and _____ us the _____ in our _____ as a deposit."

•**I John 3:24** "Now he who keeps His commandments _____ in _____, and _____ in him. And by this we know that _____ abides (lives, dwells) in us, by the _____ whom He has given us."

Definition: "Which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory" – Here we are given more details of what this great mystery is, and how God is revealing it to the Gentiles (non-Jews). As believers in Jesus Christ, **we actually have CHRIST living IN us.** None of this information or "mystery" was revealed in the Old Testament, except that they did know the Gentiles would be brought into the New Covenant when it came.

They did NOT know in the Old Testament that the Messiah Himself would LIVE in His believers, and that the church would be primarily made up of Gentiles, and not Jews. Yes, there are many Jewish believers, both in the early church and now, but Israel as a whole has rejected their Messiah, and God has turned to the Gentiles. The "hope of glory" is our hope and **assurance by God's promise** that He will take us to heaven to live with Him for all eternity.

- 29 To this end I also **LABOR, STRIVING** according to **HIS WORKING which WORKS IN ME** mightily.
- **Ephesians 3:20-21** “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, _____ to the _____ that _____ in _____, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”
 - **Philippians 2:13** “For it is _____ who _____ in _____ both to _____ and to _____ for His good pleasure.”
 - **Colossians 4:12** “Epaphras, who is one of you, a _____ of _____, greets you, always _____ fervently for you in _____, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

Definition: “I also LABOR, STRIVING according to HIS WORKING which WORKS IN ME” – If it is God’s power working in us, where does the “laboring and striving” come in on our part? **It takes labor and striving (working hard) to overcome our own DESIRE to be IN CONTROL and do things ourselves.** It takes hard work **to put aside the FLESH, and to ALLOW God’s power through the Holy Spirit to WORK and do His will in us.** Also, Paul talks about another Believer there in the Colossian church who **“labors fervently for you in prayers” so we see that PRAYER involves hard work and labor on our part.**

- **Ephesians 5:17-18** “Therefore do not be unwise, but _____ what the _____ of the _____ is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be _____ with the _____.”
- **Acts 4:31** “And when they had _____, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all _____ with the _____, and they spoke the _____ of God with _____.”
- **Galatians 5:16** “I say then, ‘_____ in the _____, and you shall not fulfill the _____ of the _____.’”
- **Romans 13:12-13** “The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of _____, and let us put on the armor of _____. Let us _____ (conduct our lives) properly, as in the day, _____ in _____ and _____, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the _____, to fulfill its _____.”
- **I Thessalonians 4:3-5** “For this is the _____ of _____, your _____: that you should _____ from _____; that each of you should know how to possess (keep) his own vessel (body) in _____ and _____, not in _____ of _____, like the Gentiles who do _____ know God.”

Chapter 2

1-3 For 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, that **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, IN WHOM are HIDDEN** all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- **Ephesians 4:16** “From whom the whole body, _____ and _____ by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in _____.”
- **Colossians 2:19** “...and not holding fast to the _____, from

whom all the body [of Christ], _____ and _____
_____ by joints and ligaments, _____ with the
increase which is from God.”

• **Ephesians 6:10-18** “Finally, my brethren, be _____ in the _____,
and in the _____ of His might. Put on the whole _____ of _____, that
you may be able to stand against the _____ of the _____. For we do
_____ wrestle against _____ and _____, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against _____
hosts of _____ in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole
_____ of _____, that you may be able to _____ in the evil day,
and having done _____, to _____. Stand, therefore, having girded your waist
with _____, having put _____ the _____ of
_____, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of
peace. Above all, taking the _____ of _____ with which you will be
able to quench all the fiery darts (arrows) of the _____ one. And take the
_____ of salvation, and the _____ of the _____, which is the
_____ of _____; praying always with _____ and
supplication in the _____, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and
supplication for all the _____.”

Definition: “What a GREAT CONFLICT I have for you” – Conflict means warfare or fighting. Our struggle and warfare is NOT against HUMAN ENEMIES, but against Satan and his spiritual forces of EVIL (demons) that are INFLUENCING those people. This is also where “**laboring fervently for you in prayers**” comes into play, as our PRAYERS are a form of spiritual “**weapon**” in our fight against Satan, and our intercessory prayer for other Believers. Prayer is one of the weapons and a part of the “armor of God” mentioned in Ephesians chapter six. Here is a short definition of the parts of that armor:

a.) “**BELT of TRUTH**” - This was a WIDE BELT on which hung ALL the weapons of the Roman soldier. You must **SPEND TIME studying GOD’S WORD**, because if you do not **SOLIDLY KNOW God’s TRUTH**, the weapons will not work — everything will fall to pieces.

b.) “**BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS**” - The breastplate was the part of the armor that **protected the HEART**. In the Bible, the heart usually represents our **EMOTIONS**. If you are **CONFIDENT of the FACT** that **YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS** because of **what JESUS DID on the cross**, it will **PROTECT your EMOTIONS - PROTECT YOU from FEELINGS of being inadequate or worthless in God’s eyes**.

• **II Corinthians 5:21** “For He (God the Father) made _____ (Jesus) who knew _____ sin to be sin for _____, that _____ might be _____ the _____ of _____ in _____.”

c.) “**SHIELD of FAITH**” - You must USE your FAITH to ward off the “**FIERY DARTS of the WICKED ONE**” (doubts, anxious or fearful THOUGHTS, or sinful SUGGESTIONS) that Satan will throw at you like “fiery arrows.” Be careful — Satan will NOT announce that these doubts and sinful thoughts are from him, but will **make them seem like YOUR OWN thoughts**.

d.) “**HELMET of SALVATION**” - The helmet **PROTECTS the HEAD - your MIND**, your **thought life**. Our salvation brings with it a **RENEWING** of our **MINDS**, conforming us to the **MIND** of Christ. When you really **KNOW** who you are in Christ, and have **ASSURANCE of your salvation**, Satan can’t mess with your mind. The wiles or tricks of the **DEVIL** that he attacks you with are primarily “head games” - attacks in your thought life. He will dangle some thought or suggestion in front of you - **DON’T TAKE the BAIT!**