**Rescued In Him: From Lies to Truth**

The most common phrase for a saved/forgiven person in the New Testament is not saved, Christian, disciple, redeemed, forgiven. It is In Christ 164 times in Paul alone.

I just finished a series on this in Merced.

First, we learned that all of us, at one time, were outside of Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-3 We were “dead in our sins.” We “gratified the cravings of the sinful nature” We were “objects of wrath”

Ephesians 2:11-13 We were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenant and promises of God.

But: (praise God)

Gal 3:26-28 We were baptized into Christ and clothed with Christ.

In Christ we have so many blessings!!!

From your series:

Ephesians 1:7 We have **redemption in Christ**—we were bought back by God

Eph 2:19 In Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. We have a **secure love in Christ**--without fear. Romans 8:38 Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Phil 4:7 We have **Peace that passes understanding… in Christ Jesus**

Ephesians 1:4 He chose us in him before the creation of the world. We have a **greater purpose--surpassing worth in Christ**.

Coll 2:10 In Christ you have been brought to fullness—completeness, God-like-ness.

Phil 3:7-9 surpassing worth… in him.

Romans 6:23 … the gift of God is **eternal life in Christ Jesus** our Lord

1 Cor 15:22 In Christ all will be made alive.

2 Cor 5:17 We are a new creation in Christ

Not only that, but:
Romans 8:1 There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:28 You are all one in Christ Jesus.

Eph 1:3 We have every spiritual blessing in Christ.

But now, let me get to my topic.

In Him: From Lies to Truth.

**I. In Christ the Veil is Removed**

2 Cor 3:7-11 A little context for this passage:

v. 7-11 Paul is talking about when Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to receive the Law, including the Ten Commandments.

This was a law that brought death. How is that? It made sin “utterly sinful” (Romans 7:14)

v.7 But even that law came with great glory. Like the temple of Solomon when it was dedicated.

v. 9 If the ministry that brought death was glorious, what about the ministry that brings righteousness.

v. 10 In fact it has surpassing glory!

v. 11 Because this glory (unlike that of Moses) lasts!

2 Cor 3:12-18

v. I hope you are very bold! Those who see the glory of Christ ought to be bold!

Me: I was pulled aside by the CSUB police for being “too aggressive”

We were asked not to share in the library at MC.

I got kicked out of where I was sharing at UCM

v. 13 We are not like Moses, whose brilliance faded over time….

Q: Has your “glory” faded over time?

 v. 14, In Christ the veil is removed!!!! In Christ you can finally see.

Q: Can you remember when God removed the veil?

John 8:31-41 Belief is not enough. We need to be prepared to “hold to his teaching.” Then the veil is removed, and we are freed from slavery.

But these Jewish leaders clearly still have the veil over their spiritual eyes.

They have “no room for my word.”

Ill: Have you ever studied with a person who still had the veil on… When we read a Scripture and ask them what it means, we get an answer which shows the veil is not removed.

A low spiritual IQ

But when the veil is lifted, they become theological geniuses.

Back to 2 Cor.

Some here today still have a veil over their spiritual eyes. But…

v. 16 This happens when we receive the Holy Spirit at baptism.

Illustration:

Have you ever gone hiking at night? Even gone trail-running at night?

Illustration:

When I got glasses in the 4th grade, it is like a veil had been removed.

v. 17 In John 8:31-41 the freedom is from sin.

Here, the freedom is from the veil, so that we can not see God.

2 Cor 3:18 Because the veil has been removed, we are able to be transformed into the glory of Christ.

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate/reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.

Contemplate reflect contemplate reflect

Challenge: Is this happening in your life? Are you contemplating? Are you reflecting?

Get the vision: Transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.

In Christ we behold the glory of God in Christ and we become that glory.

Get the picture!

**II The Mystery of God Is Revealed in Christ**

What are the great mysteries of life? People climb a mountain to find a guru who can answer the great mysteries.

What is the meaning of life?

Does history have a purpose and a direction, or is everything random?

What is the right thing to do?

What is God’s will for my life?

Why is the avocado pit so large?

Where is truth to be found?

Who holds the keys to the great mysteries of life?

We have shows like X-files. Unsolved Mysteries. Twilight Zone Outer Limits

Old Testament “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Everyone likes a good mystery

In the Old Testament, much was revealed but much was left as a mystery.

Kingdom of God hinted in Old Testament.

Prophecies of Messiah. We knew something was coming but not exactly what or when.

1 Pet 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation (that which is in Christ), the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with greatest care, trying to find out the time and the circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow… Even angels long to look into these things.

Guess what! In Christ, the mystery is solved. The Mystery of ages is uncovered.

Colossians 1:25-27

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make know among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

What do we have in Christ? We have Christ in us!

The mystery is Christ in us.

Paul continues with this idea:

Colossians 2:2-3

My 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, in who are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The mystery *is* Christ.

Not only does he give us the answer. He ***IS*** the answer.

Every important answer is found in him.

What is my purpose? To become like him and to give him glory.

What is the meaning of life? Paul: For me to live is Christ.

What is my value? Infinite.

Where am I going/What happens when I die? Thanks to Jesus, to eternal life with God in his kingdom.

What is God’s will? That all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Who am I? You are a child of God—created in his image.

The secret of the kingdom of God is revealed in Christ

Ephesians 3:3-6

*Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which 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. This 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.*

The mystery revealed is the means of salvation, first for the Jews, then for the Gentiles. All will inherit the promise together. Who would have thought of that idea?

We do not need the Freemasons and their secret handshakes.

Every important mystery is revealed.

Origin of the universe? Christ! (by him and through him all things were created Coll 1:16)

Is there meaning to history? Yes! Christ is the predestined one. All world events point to Jesus. He is the reason for the pax Romana. He is the one born at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and Asia.

His birth/incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension and return are the focal points of all history.

Why the avocado pit is so large? Sorry… Can’t help you there.

Christ is the answer to all of the great mysteries of life.

Challenge: Make Christ and his mystery known to the world.

Q: Who will you reveal the mystery of Christ to this week?

Let us, as ambassadors, make this mystery known to as many as possible, which is Christ in us, the hope of glory.