

## Christ In You (The mystery has been revealed) – (Old Covenant vs. New Covenant)

### 1. Finding Treasure in the Word – Series Introduction

\*Note: this first study is longer than most, because it's an overview of what's to come.

Imagine studying the Bible like a treasure hunt—digging deeper, uncovering hidden riches, and discovering more of Jesus (His relationship with us and ours with Him) with every find. That's where we are heading together in this study series.

This first session is an overview of what's coming: a journey through the glorious good news of our union and intimate relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit which is received the moment we believe in Jesus Christ. Salvation is God's "free gift," given by grace through faith alone (**Rom. 10:9; Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:21-31; 2 Cor. 5:14-21**). We don't earn it; we simply "receive" it. And the result? "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (**Col. 1:27**), a living, abiding relationship with the Triune God. Learning what you "received" at salvation will be a big focus of these studies.

Over the coming studies we'll explore:

- Who we are in union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (who we are in Christ)
- How each Person of the Godhead relates to us and we to Him
- How we maintain and deepen that relationship by abiding in Christ (**Jn. 15:1-11**) and partaking in His divine nature (**2 Pet. 1:1-11**).

I'm calling this series "**Finding Treasure in The Word**" because that's exactly what studying Scripture has become for me: like hunting for priceless treasure hidden in full context, treasure right there in plain sight that we can miss if we don't dig deeper.

For years I read the Bible out of duty, with an "Old-Testament, works-based mindset", trying to maintain my right standing with God. But everything changed when I began reading through the lens of the New Covenant and the finished work of the cross. Now I read because I *get* to spend time with Jesus through His Word. The "*have to*" changed to a "*get to*" and it changed everything! Now I let the Holy Spirit teach me (**Jn. 14:26; 16:13**), and I've learned the joy of digging in full context. The deeper I go, the more treasure I find and the by-product is overflowing joy! The more time spent in the Bible the more outflow and overflow of joy!

That's the "New Covenant mindset" shift I pray for every one of us. Think of these studies as a shared treasure hunt. The Holy Spirit is our guide, the Bible is the map, and Jesus Himself is the treasure. It takes time to dig, but it's time wonderfully well spent.

Ready to hunt for hidden treasure together? Let's begin! 😊

## 2. Christ In You (The mystery has been revealed) - Overview

### a) Christ in You (the “you” is referring to believers).

Let's read **Col. 1:26-28** – Note: KJV “Hidden mystery made manifest to His saints”.

Then back up to **Col. 1:1-6**. Paul is speaking to believers who understand the truth about God's wonderful grace.

In **Col. 1:11-14** Paul is speaking to believers who have been saved and rescued from darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of His son. Christ is supreme **Jn. 1:1-4, Col. 1:15-20** and He has reconciled you (believers) to Himself **Col. 1:21-22**. – Believe and “continue” to believe!

**Col. 1:23.** “*All treasure and wisdom is hidden in Him*”

**Col. 2:2-3 (NKJV & AMPC)** The Holy Spirit gives us access to this treasure. Christ is supreme and in Him is all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and He is living in us (those who believe) because of the Holy Spirit. Wow!

### b) Christ in us? Us in Christ? How does that work?

How can Christ live in us and us in Him? Because of the Holy Spirit who is also called the Spirit of Christ.

### c) Jesus promises the Holy Spirit: **Jn. 15:26**. Let's talk about the work of the Holy Spirit **Jn. 16:5-15**. Discuss how this ties this in with **Col. 2:2-3 (NKJV)** in regards to the Holy Spirit being how “Christ is in” believers.

These two passages **Col. 2:2-3** and **Jn. 16:12-15** function like a divine “wealth management” system. Colossians identifies where the treasure is stored, while John explains the delivery method. Together, they show that the Christian life isn't about searching for new truths outside of Christ, but about the Holy Spirit unpacking the infinite truths already contained within Him.

If Colossians tells us what the treasure is, John 16 tells us how we get our hands on it. This passage outlines a beautiful “chain of custody” for divine truth:

- **The Source:** The Father owns everything.
- **The Heir:** The Son (Christ) has everything the Father has.
- **The Courier:** The Holy Spirit takes what belongs to the Son and “declares” (or reveals) it to the believer.

God has given us (believers) His Spirit and we live in Him and He in us: **1 Jn. 4:13-16**.

When did you receive the Holy Spirit? When you believed in Christ: Eph. 1:13-14.

You receive the Holy Spirit through faith when you believed: Gal. 3:1-14.

He put His seal upon us by giving us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee: 2 Cor. 1:22.

### 3. Old Covenant vs. New Covenant. Two different mindsets for the believer.

a) Let's talk about the difference of the Old Covenant (OC) and New Covenants (NC) and how a believer needs to be careful to not mix them in their walk with the Lord and understanding of the scriptures.

OC = Old Covenant < > NC = New Covenant

OC: Law < > NC: Grace

OC: Works < > NC: Believe and receive

OC: The written law < > NC: Laws written on our hearts.

OC: Heavy yoke of the law < > NC: His yoke is easy

OC: Heavy Burden of the not keeping the law < > NC: His burden is light

OC: Keeping the law < > NC: New way of faith

OC: Separation < > NC: No longer any separation

OC: His presence in a temple behind a veil < > NC: The veil torn (We are the temple)

OC: Separated from His presence < > NC: We can now boldly enter into His presence

OC: God was in a temple behind a curtain < > NC: We are the temple

OC: Far from God < > NC: Brought near to God by the blood of Christ

OC: Longing for His presence < > NC: Walking in His presence

b) Two examples of mixing Covenants: Law vs. grace.

**Phil. 2:12,13 (NKJV)** vs. **12** is law, vs. **13** is grace.

- **v. 13** tells me I'm not alone in this salvation thing. It is His "free gift" that I have received. Read **v. 13** in (**NLT and AMPC**)
- Note on "work out your salvation" (v. 12): This isn't a command to earn salvation through our own effort (that would be law). Salvation is already a finished work and a free gift to be received; we receive it by faith! Instead, "work out" means to live out and express in daily life the salvation God has already worked in us. We'll explore in future studies how this connects to abiding in Christ. And here's the best part: we can only do this because of verse 13's grace—God Himself is the One working inside us, giving us both the desire ("to will") and the power ("to do") to live for His good pleasure. We're never striving alone; His grace empowers every step! (See v. 13 in NLT: "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.")
- **Isa. 55:8-9 (NLT.)** His thoughts and ways higher than ours. Who can know His thoughts? Let's talk about how New Covenant passages can be misread through an Old Covenant lens and why we must avoid mixing the two using the following as one example:  
**1 Cor. 2:9** and **2:16**. Note old covenant reference. Full context: **1 Cor. 2:6-16**.  
Note the "But" in **v. 10** and in **vs 16**. - Read **1 Cor. 2:10 in (AMPC)** - Read **1 Cor. 2:16 in (AMPC)**

- Many people stop at **1 Cor. 2:9** ("Eye has not seen...") and use it to suggest that God's plans are a total mystery. The Old Covenant Lens (**v. 9**): Isa. was looking forward to something he couldn't yet see or fully grasp. While **v. 9** (quoting Isaiah) describes the limitations of the human senses under the Old Covenant, **v.10** begins with a definitive '**But.**' This '**But**' signals a change in era: what was once hidden from the prophets is now revealed to us (believers) by the Spirit."
- The New Covenant Reality (**v. 10**): The Holy Spirit has now pulled back the curtain.
- **Note:** There is still Old Covenant in the written text of the New Testament. Keep that in mind when you are reading through the Gospels. E.g. the New Testament writings have Old and New Covenant mentioned in the text.
- Be careful not to mistake the location of a verse for its covenant. Because the Gospels record the life of Jesus before the Cross, He is often speaking to people still bound by the Old Covenant. The New Covenant officially begins with His blood (Lk. 22:20). If we apply Old Covenant requirements to a New Covenant believer, we miss the 'finished work' of Christ.

#### 4. God first chose us, but we still must choose Him

(The elect are those who are in Christ through faith; belief is how we enter the chosen family.)

- **Eph. 1:4-7 in context:** Paul is writing to believers—"the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:1). When he says God "chose us in him before the foundation of the world" and "predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ," the "us" refers to those who are already in Christ. The choosing and predestination are "in him" (v. 4), "in the Beloved" (v. 6), and through union with Christ. Verse 6 clarifies: God's glorious grace is poured out "*on us who belong to his dear Son.*" We do not belong to Christ until we believe; faith is how we come to be included in the chosen, adopted family. This is corporate election: God chose the church (all who would be in Christ) as His people, and individuals enter that chosen group through faith.
- **Grace - God's eternal plan and initiative:** Salvation was always God's plan before time began (Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Tim. 1:9). He takes the first step, drawing people to Himself through the gospel and revealing His Son (Gal. 1:15-16; John 6:44). Jesus issues open invitations: "Come to me... whoever believes in me... whoever is thirsty... I am the door" (Matt. 11:28; John 4:14; 6:40; 7:37-39; 10:9). This drawing is God's sovereign grace—His "yes" to us—offered freely to all through the cross.
- **Faith - Our necessary response:** Grace is God's unearned initiative; faith is our trusting response. Though God draws, we must choose to believe and receive (John 3:16; 5:24; Rom. 6:23). Those who believe receive eternal life and escape judgment; those who reject through unbelief remain separated from God (John 3:18, 36; 2 Thess. 1:9). God's sovereignty and human free will work together: He draws and enables, we believe or reject.

## 5. Key truths about adoption and union with Christ

- a) **He chose us first and draws us—yet we must respond:** The gospel call goes out, and we can willingly accept or reject it. God's "yes" precedes ours, but our faith is the moment we say "yes" back and become His children (**Gal. 3:26 (ESV)**: "*For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith*").
- b) **Adoption happens through faith:** Only when we believe are we clothed with Christ, baptized into Him, and adopted into God's family (**Gal. 3:23–4:7**, especially **v. 26-27 AMP**: "*clothed yourselves with Christ*"). We receive the full inheritance—sonship and all spiritual blessings—when we believe in and trust Christ.
- c) **Spiritual baptism into Christ at salvation:** **Rom. 6:3-7 (AMP)** describes being "*baptized into Christ Jesus... into His death... raised to newness of life.*" This happens the moment we believe; we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection. Water baptism is the outward, public celebration and identification with what has already occurred spiritually.
- d) **Union with Christ:** When we repent of our sins, confess Jesus as Lord and believe **Mk. 1:15; Ac. 2:38, 3:19, 16:31; Rom. 10:9**, He lives in us and we in Him (**1 Jn. 4:15 AMP**). The old self is crucified with Him (**Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20**), and we receive the free gift of salvation and the finished work of the cross.
- e) **In summary:** God eternally planned to have a chosen, adopted people in Christ. He draws sinners to the Son through the gospel. When we respond in faith, we enter into Christ and receive every blessing Paul describes in **Eph. 1**, including election and adoption. He chose us first; we choose Him back—and in that moment, we truly become His.

## 6. What happens when you believe in Jesus Christ by faith?

Because you have believed in Christ.

You have received His finished work on the cross.

Believe that you have received and continue to believe.

### ➤ Because of Your faith and trust in Christ you are:

- in Christ and He is in you.
- no longer slaves to sin but have become slaves to righteous living.
- cleansed; made holy; and made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- made right with God through Christ.
- united with Him in his death, burial, and resurrection.
- dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

➤ **Because of Your faith and trust in Christ you have:**

- life by the power of His name.
- become a new person, a new creation.
- been raised to new life with Christ.
- been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ.
- become friends of God.
- received the promised Holy Spirit.
- received God's promise of freedom.
- received forgiveness for your sins.
- become a child of God.
- gone through a spiritual circumcision—a cutting away of your sinful nature.
- crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- been saved, born-again, reborn from above—spiritually transformed and made new.
- been renewed, sanctified, and set apart by faith and are being renewed, sanctified.  
e.g., ongoing relationship.
- died to your old life, were buried with Christ and have been raised to new life with Christ.
- eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- been raised up together with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places.
- died to the power of the law when you died with Christ.
- been united with Christ.
- been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ.
- renewed thoughts and a new nature.
- turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.
- had the veil removed and can now see and reflect the glory of the Lord.
- become righteous through faith in Christ.
- been made holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.
- stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.
- been rescued from the curse pronounced by the law.
- been delivered from justly deserved wrath, and have come under the covenant of grace.
- been brought into a right relationship with God that comes by faith.
- peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.
- been brought into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand.
- been brought into a new way of living in the Spirit.
- been identified as his own because He gave you the Holy Spirit.
- received everything Christ did on the cross. You have received the finished work!  
YAY! ...and now you must continue to abide in Him, ongoing relationship.

➤ **Those who believe in Jesus Christ will:**

- never thirst.
- never go hungry.
- have springs and rivers of living water flowing [continuous] from their innermost being. (Which is the Holy Spirit).
- be saved.
- live and never die.
- have abundant life. (To the full, till it overflows).
- be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope.
- become children of light.
- do the same works Jesus has done, and even greater works.

In the following studies, we will dive into all that is listed above starting the secret of Christ in us being revealed and Old Covenant v. New Covenant mindsets.

Homework:

**Homework: Reaffirm the Treasure of the Holy Spirit in You**

To reinforce what we learned today about “Christ in you” through the Holy Spirit (the amazing truth that He lives in every believer from the moment of faith), slowly read and meditate on these key passages. Let them remind you that you received the Holy Spirit the instant you believed—He is God’s seal and guarantee inside you!

- **1 John 4:13-16** – God has given us His Spirit; we live in Him and He lives in us.
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** – You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit the moment you believed.
- **Galatians 3:1-14** – You received the Spirit by faith, not by works.
- **2 Corinthians 1:22** – God put His seal on us by giving us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee.

*“Finding Treasure in the Word” RiverLife Fellowship Life Link – Meeting 1 - 3/15/22*

All studies with full notes in PDF format are available here:

<https://christinyoustudymap.com/finding-treasure-in-the-word-bible-studies/>

↓----below study material for outside of the group meeting----↓

## Deeper study

The importance of **Col. 2:2-3** and **Jn. 16:12-15** and how they complement each other.

These two passages function like a divine "wealth management" system. Colossians identifies where the treasure is stored, while John explains the delivery method. Together, they show that the Christian life isn't about searching for *new* truths outside of Christ, but about the Holy Spirit unpacking the infinite truths already contained *within* Him.

### 1. The Warehouse: Christ as the Treasury (Colossians 2:2-3)

In Colossians, Paul describes Christ as the ultimate repository. By saying that "**all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**" are hidden in Him, Paul is making a massive claim: there is no "higher" knowledge or "secret" insight that exists apart from Jesus.

- **"Hidden" doesn't mean "unreachable":** In Greek, the word used for "hidden" (*apokryphos*) implies something stored up for safekeeping, like a treasure chest. It's hidden *for* us, not *from* us.
- **The Scope:** By saying "all," Paul leaves no room for external philosophies. If it is true wisdom, it originates in the person of Christ.

### 2. The Pipeline: The Father, the Son, and the Spirit (John 16:12-15)

If Colossians tells us *what* the treasure is, John 16 tells us how we get our hands on it. This passage outlines a beautiful "chain of custody" for divine truth:

- **The Source:** The Father owns everything.
- **The Heir:** The Son (Christ) has everything the Father has.
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See chart comparison below:

## How They Complement Each Other

The synergy between these two passages creates a complete picture of spiritual growth. Here is how they interlock:

| Concept      | Colossians 2:2-3                               | John 16:12-15                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| The Content  | The "Treasures" of wisdom and knowledge.       | "All truth" and "All things the Father has."     |
| The Location | Hidden in <b>Christ</b> .                      | Held by <b>Christ</b> (from the Father).         |
| The Access   | Found through "understanding" and "knowledge." | Delivered by the <b>Holy Spirit</b> 's guidance. |
| The Result   | Full assurance and hearts encouraged.          | The glorification of Christ in the believer.     |

### The "Christ in You" Connection

The beauty of this connection is that the believer doesn't have to go on a pilgrimage to find this "treasure." Because the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer, and the Spirit's primary job is to take the riches of Christ and manifest them to us, the **treasure is now internal**.

You have the "Vault" (Christ) accessible through the "Key" (the Holy Spirit). When you read John 16, you see that the Spirit isn't bringing a *different* message; He is simply the one who opens the door to the "hidden" treasures Paul mentions in Colossians. He translates the infinite wisdom of Jesus into the specific, daily "full assurance" that a believer needs.

**In short:** Colossians 2 defines the **Wealth**, and John 16 defines the **Distribution**.