

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.

In the studies ahead, we will explore together:

- Our true identity in union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (who we are in Christ)
- How each Person of the Godhead relates to us—and how we relate to Him.
- Practical ways to maintain and deepen this relationship by abiding in Christ (Jn. 15:1-11) and becoming partakers of 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.

Old Covenant vs. New Covenant – Law vs. Grace (have to vs. get to)

(A quick-glance comparison – the "mindset shift" that changes everything!)

Old Covenant	New Covenant	Supporting Scriptures (OC <> NC)
Law	Grace	Ex. 20:1-17; 2 Cor. 3:7 <> Jn. 1:17; Rom. 6:14
Works	Believe and receive	Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:20 <> Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:2
The written law	Laws written on our hearts	Ex. 31:18; 2 Cor. 3:3 <> Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10
Heavy yoke of the law	His yoke is easy	Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1 <> Matt. 11:28-30
Heavy burden of trying to keep the law	His burden is light	Matt. 23:4 <> Matt. 11:30
Keeping the law	New way of faith	Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:12 <> Gal. 3:11; Rom. 1:17
Separation	No longer any separation	Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:12 <> Eph. 2:14; Matt. 27:51
His presence in a temple behind a veil	The veil torn (We are the temple)	Lev. 16:2; Heb. 9:7-8 <> Matt. 27:51; 1 Cor. 3:16
Separated from His presence	We can now boldly enter into His presence	Heb. 9:7-8 <> Heb. 4:16; Heb. 10:19-22
God was in a temple behind a curtain	We are the temple	1 Kings 8:10-11 <> 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16
Far from God	Brought near to God by the blood of Christ	Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:12 <> Eph. 2:13
Longing for His presence	Walking in His presence	Ps. 42:1-2; Ex. 33:15 <> Jn. 14:23; 1 Jn. 4:13
Ministry of death / condemnation	Ministry of the Spirit / righteousness	2 Cor. 3:7-9
Repeated sacrifices that could never take away sins	One perfect sacrifice – perfect forever	Heb. 10:1-4 <> Heb. 10:10-14

Note: See **2 Cor. 3** for a powerful chapter that contrasts the two covenants side-by-side (letter vs. Spirit, fading glory vs. lasting glory, veil, condemnation vs. righteousness). **Heb. 10** drives home the finished work of Christ even more clearly.

a) 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 chosen still must choose Christ via faith, believe in Christ and you will be saved)

- **God first chose us: Eph. 1:4-7, 11** Keep in mind that Paul is speaking to believers, faithful followers of Christ and he is speaking to the church as a group.
- **Gal. 1:15-16** ..."it pleased him to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus". This is God's heart for all of us.
- **2 Tim. 1:9** - Salvation for us was His plan before the beginning of time. However, we need to choose Him to receive this salvation.
- God draws us to Himself through Christ and at the same time invites us to believe and receive Him. God's sovereignty and grace is Him drawing us to the Son and man's free will is choosing to believe or reject Christ. **Jn. 4:14, Jn. 6:40, Jn. 7:37-39, Mat. 11:28, Jn. 10:9, Jn. 6:44, 2 Pet. 1:3-4.**
- **Grace:** This is God's unearned initiative—the source of the drawing. Through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, He reaches out to us first, offering what we could never achieve on our own.
- **Faith:** This is our essential response. The drawing brings us to the crossroads: we can look to the crucified and risen Savior, choose to believe and receive His grace, or freely reject Him and remain separated from the Father.
- Those who believe in Jesus Christ receive eternal life and salvation, escaping God's righteous judgment (**Jn. 3:16, 5:24; Rom. 6:23**). Conversely, those who reject Him through unbelief face eternal death and everlasting separation from God (**Jn. 3:18, 36; 2 Thes. 1:9**).

a) He chose us first, adopted us into His family and He draws us to Himself:

As a result of us hearing/reading the good news that Christ died for our sins, we can willingly respond and choose or we can reject Him. (God gave us free will to choose) He first chose us; that is His yes to us. When we choose Him; that is our yes to Him!

b) Only when we believe in Christ do we become a child of God and can then receive the inheritance of being adopted. **Gal. 3:23 - 4:7** - God's children through faith.

(Be sure to read **Gal. 3:26-27 in AMP**) **Note:** *Baptized into Christ* (**ESV, KJV, NKJV, NASB, ASV, MSG**) and clothed with Christ. (Immersed into Christ)

c) See also **Rom. 6:3-7 (AMP)** – baptized into Christ and into His death and into newness of life! (*We receive all of this at salvation*)

d) When one believes in Christ He is in Christ and Christ is in them. **1 Jn. 4:15 (AMP)**.

→ Baptized into Christ at salvation. ← Water baptism is a celebration of publicly identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ! **A public celebration of what you received when you believed in Christ.**

e) When we believe in Christ, we receive His free gift of salvation and the finished work of the cross.

f) When you were saved, you were united with Christ in His crucifixion (see **Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20**). Positionally — in God's eyes and in your new identity — the old self dominated by the flesh was crucified with Christ. Its rightful power and condemnation over you were broken once for all.

5. **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:** (a list for homework)

- in Christ and He is in you: Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; Jn. 14:20.
- no longer slaves to sin but have become slaves to righteous living: Rom. 6:17-18, 22.
- cleansed; made holy; and made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 10:13.
- made right with God through Christ: Rom. 3:24; 5:1, 9.
- united with Him in his death, burial, and resurrection: Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12.
- dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus: Rom. 6:11, 13.

➤ **Because of Your faith and trust in Christ you have:** (a list for homework)

- life by the power of His name: Jn. 20:31; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.
- Has passed from death to life and has eternal life now! Jn. 3:36, 5:11-13, 24, 6:40.
- become a new person, a new creation: 2 Cor. 5:17.
- been raised to new life with Christ: Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1.
- been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ: Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3.
- become friends of God: Jn. 15:15; Jas. 2:23.
- received the promised Holy Spirit: Eph. 1:13; Gal. 3:1-4, 14; Acts 2:33; 2 Cor. 1:22; Jn. 7:37-39.
- received God's promise of freedom: Gal. 5:1; Jn. 8:36.
- received forgiveness for your sins: Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14.
- become a child of God: Jn. 1:12; Gal. 3:26; Rom. 8:16.
- gone through a spiritual circumcision—a cutting away of your sinful nature: Col. 2:11.
- crucified the flesh with its passions and desires: Gal. 5:24; Rom. 6:6.
- been saved, born-again, reborn from above—spiritually transformed and made new: Jn. 3:3-7; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:23.
- been renewed, sanctified, and set apart by faith and are being renewed, sanctified. e.g., ongoing relationship: 1 Cor. 6:11; Acts 26:18; Heb. 10:10, 14. Note: Have been sanctified and are being sanctified, e.g. the process of sanctification.
- died to your old life, were buried with Christ and have been raised to new life with Christ: Rom. 6:4-8; Col. 2:12.
- eternal life through Jesus Christ: Rom. 6:23; Jn. 10:28; 1 Jn. 5:13.
- been raised up together with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places: Eph. 2:6.
- died to the power of the law when you died with Christ: Rom. 7:4-6; Gal. 2:19.
- been united with Christ: Rom. 6:5; Gal. 2:20.

- been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ: Eph. 2:13.
- renewed thoughts and a new nature: Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10.
- turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God: Acts 26:18; Eph. 5:8.
- had the veil removed and can now see and reflect the glory of the Lord: 2 Cor. 3:16-18.
- become righteous through faith in Christ: 2 Cor. 5:17,21; Rom. 3:21-22, 4:24, 5:17.
- * Imputed righteousness: Christ's perfect righteousness is credited to the believer. Christ's righteousness is a free gift received by faith. The Cost: Free to you, but it cost Him everything. The Requirement: Simply "receiving" it through faith, rather than earning it.
- been made holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault: Col. 1:22; Eph. 5:27.
- stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds have put on the new man (new nature) and are being renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Col. 3:9-10.
- been rescued from the curse pronounced by the law: Gal. 3:13.
- been delivered from justly deserved wrath and have come under the covenant of grace: Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; Rom. 6:14.
- been brought into a right relationship with God that comes by faith: Rom. 5:1; Gal. 2:16.
- peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us: Rom. 5:1.
- been brought into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand: Rom. 5:2.
- been brought into a new way of living in the Spirit: Rom. 8:1-4; Gal. 5:16, 25.
- been identified as his own because He gave you the Holy Spirit: Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22.
- *Believers now belong to Christ.
- received everything Christ did on the cross. You have received the finished work! YAY! Jn. 19:30; Heb. 10:12-14; Col. 2:14

...and now you must continue in faith and to abide in Him, ongoing relationship:

- Continue in faith: Col 1:22–23, Acts 14:22, Heb 3:14.
- Add to your faith: 2 Pet. 1:5-10; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 4:8; Col. 1:9-10; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; Jas. 1:2-4.
- Growing in faith: 1 Pet. 2:2; Eph. 4:15; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:10; 2:6-7; 2 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 6:1.
- Abiding in Him: Jn 15:4–5, 1 Jn 2:24, 1 Jn 2:28.
- Communion: Ongoing Relationship: Col 2:6, Gal 2:20, Jn 8:31.

➤ **Those who believe in Jesus Christ will:** (a list for homework)

- never thirst: Jn. 4:14; 6:35.
- never go hungry: Jn. 6:35
- have springs and rivers of living water flowing [continuous] from their innermost being. (Which is the Holy Spirit): Jn. 7:37-39; 4:14.
- be saved: Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9.
- live and never die: Jn. 11:25-26.
- have abundant life. (To the full, till it overflows): Jn. 10:10.
- be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope: Rom. 15:13.
- become children of light: Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5; Jn. 12:36.
- do the same works Jesus has done, and even greater works: Jn. 14:12.

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.
- **The Courier**: The Holy Spirit takes what belongs to the Son and "declares" (or reveals) it to the believer.

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 Christ .	Held by Christ (from the Father).
The Access	Found through "understanding" and "knowledge."	Delivered by the Holy Spirit'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**.