

Colossians 1:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Paul reveals the mystery's content: "Christ in you" (Christos en hymin, Χριστὸς ἐν ὑμῖν). The "you" is plural, addressing Gentiles corporately. The mystery isn't merely that Gentiles can be saved but that they're fully incorporated into Christ, indwelt by Him equally with Jewish believers, without becoming Jewish. This demolished ethnic privileging in God's people.

"The riches of the glory of this mystery" piles up superlatives. Ploutos (πλοῦτος, "riches"), doxa (δόξα, "glory"), and mystērion (μυστήριον, "mystery") emphasize the revelation's incomprehensible value. God chose to disclose infinite treasure—Christ Himself—to Gentiles previously excluded from covenant promises. This generous inclusion displays divine grace's magnitude.

"The hope of glory" (hē elpis tēs doxēs, ἡ ἐλπὶς τῆς δόξης) identifies Christ as both present reality (in you now) and future hope (glory to come). Believers possess Christ currently through the Spirit's indwelling, guaranteeing future glorification. This present-future tension characterizes Christian existence: already possessing Christ, not yet experiencing complete transformation. Christ within is glory's guarantee.

Historical Context

Jewish expectation anticipated Messiah blessing Israel while Gentiles served subordinately or were judged. The scandal of Paul's gospel was equal standing: Gentiles receive identical spiritual status without circumcision or law-keeping, united to Jews in one body through faith alone. This wasn't merely tolerating Gentiles but celebrating their full inclusion as God's deliberate purpose, not afterthought.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's indwelling presence function as daily reality versus theoretical doctrine in your experience?
2. What does it mean that Christ within is your hope of glory—how does present possession guarantee future transformation?
3. How should the mystery of Gentile inclusion shape your view of God's grace and your approach to those unlike you?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	ἡθέλησεν	ό	θεὸς	γνωρίσαι	τις	ὅ	πλοῦτος
To whom	would	G3588	God	make known	what	G3588	is the riches
G3739	G2309		G2316	G1107	G5101		G4149
τῆς	δόξης·	τοῦ	μυστηρίου	τούτου	ἐν	τοῖς	ἔθνεσιν
G3588	of glory	G3588	mystery	of this	among	G3588	the Gentiles
G1391			G3466	G5127	G1722		G1484
ὅς	ἐστιν	Χριστὸς	ἐν	ὑμῖν	ἡ	ἐλπὶς	τῆς
To whom	is	Christ	among	you	G3588	the hope	G3588
G3739	G2076	G5547	G1722	G5213		G1680	
							of glory
							G1391

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:10 (References Christ): And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

John 14:20 (Parallel theme): At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

1 John 4:4 (References God): Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Galatians 2:20 (References Christ): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (References God): Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Revelation 3:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

John 14:17 (Parallel theme): Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Glory): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:19 (References Christ): My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Colossians 2:3 (Parallel theme): In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

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