

Message Five

Knowing and Experiencing the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ as the Mystery of God

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Col. 2:2-3, 9-10; John 1:1, 14, 16; Eph. 3:8, 17

- Col. 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- Col. 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
- Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col. 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Outline

I. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2:

- Col. 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- A. God Himself is a mystery, and Christ is the mystery of this mystery.
- B. The mystery of God indicates something incomprehensible and inexplicable.
- C. As the mystery of God, the all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the definition, explanation, and expression of God—the Word of God—John 1:1, 14.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- D. As the mystery of God, Christ is the history of God; the whole “story” of God is in Christ and is Christ—Col. 2:2:
- Col. 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
1. Although God is infinite and eternal, without beginning or ending, He also has a history, a story—Rom. 16:26; Psalms 90:2.

Rom. 16:26 But has now been manifested, and through the prophetic writings, according to the command of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the obedience of faith;

Psa. 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, / And before You gave birth to the earth and the world, / Indeed from eternity to eternity, You are God.

2. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ—the mystery of God, the mysterious story of God—is the history of God.

3. God’s history refers to the process through which He passed in Christ so that He may enter into us, and we may be brought into Him; this process includes incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement—John 1:12-14, 29; 3:14; 12:24; 14:20.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

E. In the all-inclusive, extensive Christ as the mystery of God, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden—Col. 2:3:

Col. 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

1. Wisdom is related to our spirit, and knowledge is related to our mind—Eph. 1:8, 17.

Eph. 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

2. God is the unique source of wisdom and knowledge—Rom. 16:27; 11:33.

Rom. 16:27 To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Rom. 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!

3. This is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of the divine economy concerning Christ and the church—Eph. 1:10; 3:9; 5:32.

Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph. 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Eph. 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

4. Wisdom and knowledge also refer to all the “stories” of God.

5. All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God’s stories are hidden in Christ, who is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2-3.

Col. 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,

Col. 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

II. As the mystery of God, Christ is the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead—v. 9:

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

A. All the fullness of the Godhead refers to the entire Godhead, the complete God—v. 9:

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

1. The word Godhead refers to deity and strongly indicates the deity of Christ.

2. Since the Godhead comprises the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the fullness of the Godhead must be the fullness of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14.

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

3. For Christ to be the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead means that the fullness of the Triune God dwells in Christ in a bodily form—Col. 2:9:

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

a. This implies the physical body that Christ put on in His humanity, and it indicates that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ as the One who has a human body—John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:14.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

Rom. 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

b. Before His incarnation the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Christ as the eternal Word, but it did not dwell in Him bodily—John 1:1.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

c. After He became incarnate, clothed with a human body, the fullness of the Godhead began to dwell in Him in a bodily way, and in His glorified body (Phil. 3:21) now and forever it dwells.

Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

B. Fullness in Colossians 2:9 refers not to the riches of God but to the expression of the riches of God:

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

1. The riches are the quantity of an object, whereas the fullness is the flowing out, the overflow, of the object to become the expression of the object.
2. What dwells in Christ is not only the riches of the Godhead but also the expression of the riches of what God is:
 - a. God's fullness is the overflow of His riches, and this overflow is God's expression.
 - b. The fullness of the Godhead is the expression of the Godhead, the expression of what God is—v. 9.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

3. The Godhead is expressed both in the old creation, the universe, and in the new creation, the church—1:15, 18.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

- C. When the Son of God was incarnated as a man, with Him was the fullness of God, and of this fullness we have all received—John 1:14, 16:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

1. In John 1:16 grace does not refer to the riches of grace but to the fullness of grace; the riches of grace are in God, but the fullness of grace is in Christ Jesus—Col. 2:9.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

2. The grace we receive is the fullness of grace; beginning from the time we are saved, we may receive grace upon grace.

3. The phrase grace upon grace in John 1:16 can be compared to the rolling waves of the sea that come in wave upon wave without ceasing.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

III. As believers in Christ, we are made full in Christ, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily—Col. 2:9-10:

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col. 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.

- A. The Greek word translated “full” in verse 10 implies completion, perfection.

Col. 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.

- B. Because all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ and because we have been put in Him, we have been made full in Him, filled up with the divine riches—1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 3:8:

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

1. All those who believe in Christ have been put into Christ; therefore, we are identified with Him and are one with Him—Gal. 3:27; 2 Cor. 5:17.

Gal. 3:27 For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- 2 Cor. 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
2. We the believers have been put into the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, identified with Him, and joined to Him as our Husband; hence, we are one with Him—Col. 1:28; Rom. 7:2-4; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
- Rom. 7:2 For the married woman is bound by the law to her husband while he is living; but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law regarding the husband.
- Rom. 7:3 So then if, while the husband is living, she is joined to another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.
- Rom. 7:4 So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.
- 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
3. Because we are one with Christ, we partake of all that He has accomplished, obtained, and attained; we inherit all that Christ has experienced and passed through, receiving all that He is and has.
4. All that He has passed through is now our history, and all that He has obtained and attained is our inheritance.
5. The result is that all that He is and all that He has belong to us, and all that He has experienced has become our history—Col. 2:11-13; 3:1.
- Col. 2:11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,
- Col. 2:12 Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- Col. 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;
- Col. 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- C. We need to have a full realization of what we have in Christ and to exercise faith to partake of all that is ours in Christ—Eph. 3:17.
- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- D. Because this fullness is all-inclusive, it accomplishes everything for us, it fully satisfies and supplies us, and it makes us full, perfect, and complete—Col. 2:9.
- Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- E. We have the all-inclusive, inexhaustible fullness that dwells in Christ bodily, and in Him we are made full—Eph. 3:8; Col. 2:9-10.
- Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col. 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.