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## Christ in me the hope of glory verse

Colossians 1.24-2.5, Ezekiel 36,24-32, Acts 14.14-25 Introduction When I was young, we had a cottage in the countryside, not far from Cirencester. One of the things I liked most was his thick walls. It meant that you could sit on the windows inside the tents and read a book on a rainy day looking out but totally protected from the elements. Someone had given us a collection of almost all the novels by Agatha Christie and spent a happy hour reading one Chedunit after another. There was always a murder at the beginning and during the rest of the book Miss Marple or Poirot spoke with people to solve the mystery and find out who was the killer. Inevitably in the end the intelligent detective has succeeded where the police did not have, the mystery was solved and the killer and the reasons for him to kill revealed. I don't know if any of you saw the death of the series in Paradise? The finals are very similar to an Agatha Christie. All possible suspects are bought together and then the mystery is resolved by the inspector of detective when he reveals the culprit. Finally all the clues and actions of the different suspects fall in place and we really understand what is happening. Today's biblical piece speaks of a mystery. And it's a great one. The word was kept hidden for centuries and generations. But before getting to it, I want to summarize on v.15-23. These verses show that we can be confident in Jesus because of those who are: the word full and definitive that reveals the character, the authority and the aims of God in the world of him. It also shows what has done and has reconciled a rebellious world to God through the death of him on the Cross. Real ministry All this was true of the apostle Paul. He was persecuting the church when on the road to Damascus Jesus met with him and turned it completely. He realized that Jesus was the Messiah, he was God and that through his sacrificing a Roman cross reconciled a rebel world, including Paul to God. Paul is given a commission from God V.25 and is this role of leadership outlined in v.24-29 that I want to explore now. We are, as we all know, in a political crisis at the moment. There have been some interesting figures that emerged last week when people evaluated the leadership of the prime minister and the opposition leader. Jeremy Corbyn has the worst degree of satisfaction of any opposition leader since they started to take them 40 years ago. With 16% satisfied with him and 76 not satisfied, he came out with a -60% rating! Boris Johnson is better out with a total satisfaction score of -18%, but only 14% are currently satisfied with the government of him with 81% unsatisfied! It is clear that we are not impressed by the qualities of some of our best politicians today! Paul offers us another example of leadership in our passage? I think he does it. Shepherd Meynell thinks we can see three examples of what is the leadership of the real ministry at the end of chapter one. 1. The true ministry ... is the service. First real ministry is the service. In V 25 p is called Servo. Following the steps of Jesus he does not aspire to the Lord on others, but to serve them. Jesus offered a leadership model very different from that of the leaders of time. He said: "The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and offer his life as a redemption for many" (Mr 10.45). Who serves Paul? He more widely serves the whole body of Christ, ie the Church (24). He is more specifically in this letter he writes to serve the Church in Colossians. How does he serve this church that he never met, hundreds of kilometers from his prison in Rome? V.25 says "Presenting the word of God in all its fullness". The best way to serve this new community of Christians is to teach them the Word of God. That's why the best way to serve one Christian Christian Christian teaching them all the word of God. This is our spiritual food. The reason why most evangelical ministers preach through entire Bible books is that they can teach their congregations the word of God in all its fullness. Otherwise it is too easy to avoid difficult steps to understand or to put into practice. They are either too controversial or counter-cultural. What is known as teaching deposit helps maintain the honest Preacher and teach God's advice, not their ideas. And what is at the center of the Word of God that Paul teaches? It's a mystery. A mystery that has been kept hidden for centuries and generations. But now it is revealed to the saints. The saints are not holy, dead, but all those who are sinners trusted in the blood of Christ shed on the cross for them, as we have seen back in v.20. This week I came across an interesting quote that I found a little shocking: "Good people go to hell. They're the bad people who go to heaven. I took a while to get around my head. We often have this biblical idea that those who are good will go to heaven. And if we come to church regularly we are definitely good people! But Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Lu 5.32 They are bad people who understand that they are not good, who can turn to God in repentance. Do we really think we're bad guys? If so we see our deep need for a Saviour and turn to Christ. If we really believe that we are good, we have nothing to save and so we will ignore Jesus and we will be lost forever. What is this mystery that Paul proclaims? The Agatha Christie final came, all gathered around as at the end of an episode of Death in Paradise and the mystery is revealed. V.27 The glorious riches of this mystery... is Christ in you, the hope of glory. The Messiah for whom all Israel has waited for hundreds of years, is revealed as a poor Galilean carpenter. He is not a man rich in prestige, a famous celebrity or a powerful war leader. But someone who ended up crucified as a criminal, condemned by religious institution and political elite. And what is even more surprising is that this obscure Jewish carpenter not only was the Jewish Messiah, but the universal Christ. The person Paul has just explained is the Creator of the World and the Redeemer of Humanity. This is the mystery that has been revealed to the Gentiles - to those of all nations. But Paul goes beyond one step: He says that for Christians "Christ is in you". Here we have an echo of Ezechiele 36.26-27: "I will give you a new heart and I will put in you a new spirit; I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put in you my Spirit and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." The Risen Christ is present in the believer through the Holy Spirit. It's really amazing. The good life we cannot live in the flesh, we can begin to live in the Spirit. And this "Christ in you" is the hope of the Glory. If we accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour, he is present in our lives and gives us confidence that we can be in relationship with God now and through heaven when we are with him in glory. Thus Paul serves the church in Colossians, presenting them the word of God in its fullness. And at the heart of this, it is that for the first time the mystery hidden by the Gentiles that the Jewish Messiah Jesus is revealed. He is the universal Christ who not only came 2,000 years ago in human form, as we celebrate in Xmas, but lives in us who trusted in him. There's a lot more to say here, but I better insist. What is the goal of Paul's service? V.28 says, "It is He who we proclaim, admonish and teach everyone with all wisdom, so that we all possess fully mature Christ". Proclaiming Christ - so people can see who Jesus is and their need to respond This is what we are doing with the Explored Christianity course that started this week - proclaiming Christ through the gospel of Mark so that people can see who is Jesus. Ammonition is the corrective side of Christian leadership "correcting the false ideas of G, rebuking the empic life. is the shepherd who protects the sheep from harmful influences. Teaching is the positive side of the Xian ministry. Teaching and preaching the word of God, on every opportune and unsuitable occasion as they say on this pulpit. The true ministry is to serve, proclaiming Christ and amonning and teaching to all with all wisdom, so that we can present all perfect in Christ. Another perfect term is mature. This was Paul's ministry many years ago and I trust that he will be my ministry here in San Massimo for many years. There are many things a vicar could devote his time to. Administration, financial management, service etc. so that everything works well in the church. Am C, admonish and teach everyone. 2. The real ministry is the fight This leads us to two more points on Christian leadership. The real ministry is fighting. In verse 29 Paul shows how he was the ministry for the greatest missionary, theologian and planter of churches after Jesus. I hope to work, to fight with you to make everyone mature in Christ. And that's why I need your prayers. May the Holy Spirit of God work powerfully in me and through me. 3. A true ministry... involves suffering One of my best friends raised was the daughter of a vicar. His father was a very sweet man of prayer who had faithfully served in various churches. In his final parish there was a real struggle of power among some important families who did not want to change anything and were affected by the vicar who carried things forward in prayer. He fought and suffered for his flock. And this brings us to the third and last point we see here in the guide of Paul. The real ministry is suffering. If you look back to our first verse, v. 24, says: "Now I rejoice in the sufferings I suffer for you, and I fill in my flesh what is still lacking in the sufferings of Christ, in favor of his body. This does not mean that something was missing in the sufferings of Christ when it comes to achieving salvation. The cross is the sacrifice once and for all that puts us in a just relationship with God. But somehow, the servants of Christ participate in his sufferings while spreading the gospel around the world. If a leader is doing his work as we have seen Paul, there will always be suffering and opposition. A pastor says: "No one likes to hear that he's wrong. Nobody likes to hear that he needs to be saved when he thinks he's okay alone, thank you very much. Nobody finds it easy to change direction. "Despite his undeniable goodness and wonder." Another of our favorite programs is NCIS, which involves pathologists who examine corpses to see what clues they can find on their death. If Paul's body had been purchased in a CSI lab, the pathologist would have a lot to look at. There would be obvious evidence of the stoning we heard he suffered in Listra, where he was left to die. There would undoubtedly be evidence of the fustigations, prisons and shipwrecks suffered during his missionary journeys. Why did he endure all this when he could buy a nice house in a suburb of Jerusalem and live an easy life? Because he felt called by God to serve the church, presenting the full word of God. To reveal the largest of the mysteries for others - "Christ in you" - to you, the hope of glory and suffering while proclaimed Christ, ammonible and teaching everyone. Pastor Mark Dever says: "PAUL writes this letter for the same reason why preaches. He loves these people, and God called him to educate them and suffer for them. So sanders through beatings, imprisonments, arguments, angry words, stones and challenges for its integrity and your mental health. And you rejoice in this service! 'It could be the same for me. It can love the motivation of each of us while we grow in the Christian faith and while we share Jesus with others. We can show our love for God and the people of him through the service, struggle and suffering. Let's pray. pray.

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