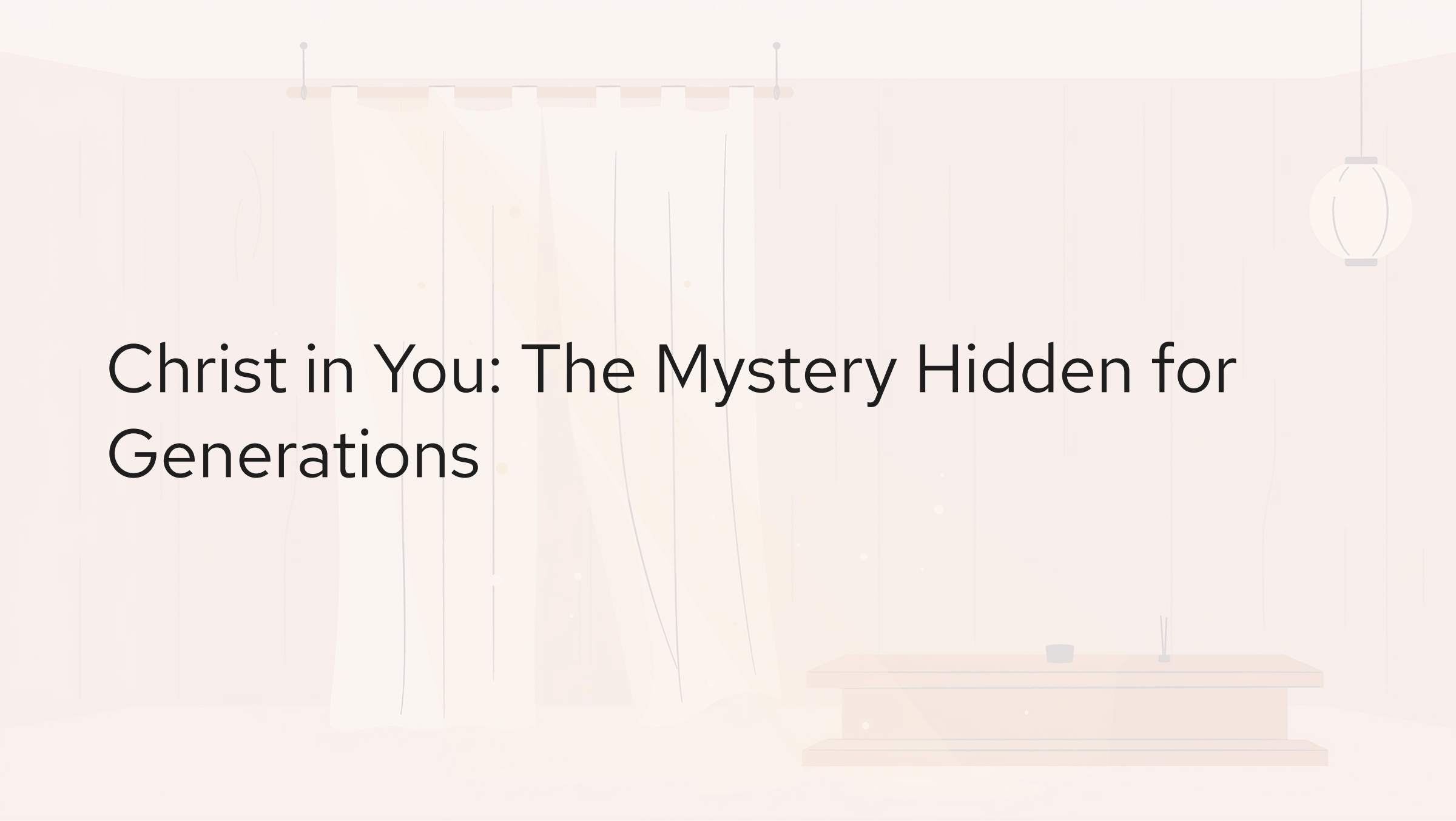


The background is a soft, minimalist illustration of an interior space. It features a light-colored wooden wall with vertical grain lines. On the left, a white curtain with vertical pleats hangs from a thin rod. To the right, a simple, round, white lantern hangs from a thin cord. In the lower right corner, there is a low, wide wooden table with a small, dark, bowl-like object and a thin, vertical object (possibly a pen or a small vase) on its surface. The overall color palette is warm and muted, with soft lighting and a few small, faint dots scattered across the scene.

Christ in You: The Mystery Hidden for Generations

For thousands of years, God lived among His people in places they could approach, but never casually enter.

There was a tabernacle. There was a temple. There was a veil. There was a priesthood.

Then Paul announced something that would have sounded almost impossible:

"Christ in you, the hope of glory."

On screen: Colossians 1:27, KJV, displayed as spoken

The God whose presence once rested **behind the veil** now lives **within His people**.

Introduction

We hear the phrase "**Christ in you**" so often that it can lose its force.

It can start sounding like a nice Christian expression. Something comforting to put on a coffee mug or a fridge magnet.

But Paul calls it a **mystery**.

Not a mystery because God wants to keep us confused. Not a mystery because only a handful of spiritual experts are allowed to understand it.

It was a mystery because generations before Christ saw **pieces of the plan** without seeing the complete picture.

They saw sacrifices. They saw priests. They saw covenants. They saw God's glory filling a tabernacle and later a temple.

They heard prophets speak about a coming Messiah, a new covenant, a new heart, and God's Spirit being placed within His people.

They saw pieces.

Then Christ came, and the pieces began to fit together.

Paul writes:

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints."

On screen: Colossians 1:26, KJV, displayed as spoken

Something hidden had now been brought into the light.

And the centre of that mystery was not simply a new religious system.

It was **Christ in His people**.

Teaching Movement Explanation

To understand how astonishing "**Christ in you**" really is, we're going to follow Paul's argument through **six movements**.

We'll begin with the mystery hidden through previous ages. Then we'll look at who received the revelation, why the Gentiles made this mystery so shocking, what "Christ in you" actually changes, why He is called the hope of glory, and finally, what Paul expected this truth to produce in the church.

Each movement builds upon the one before it.

By the end, we should see that Christianity is not merely believing something about a distant Christ. It is living because the risen Christ has made His home within us.

Movement One

The Mystery Was Hidden, Not Invented

People sometimes read the Bible as though God was constantly reacting.

Adam sinned, so God had to come up with something new. Israel failed, so God tried another plan. The law could not make people righteous, so perhaps God switched strategies and sent Jesus.

But Paul never speaks about the gospel as **God's emergency backup plan**.

He speaks about something God had purposed, concealed for a time, and then revealed at the appointed moment.

Paul closes the book of Romans with these words:

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began."

On screen: Romans 16:25, KJV, displayed as spoken

Notice the wording. It was **kept secret**. It was not created at the last minute. God knew what He was doing from the beginning.

The Old Testament did not reveal the entire mystery plainly, but neither was it silent.

The sacrificial system pointed toward Christ. The priesthood pointed toward Christ. The feasts pointed toward Christ. The tabernacle pointed toward Christ. The promises to Abraham pointed toward blessing reaching beyond Israel.

The prophets spoke about a Servant who would suffer, a King who would reign, and a covenant in which God would change His people from within.

They saw the outline, but not the completed picture.

Peter describes the prophets searching their own writings, trying to understand what the Spirit was showing them:

"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you."

On screen: 1 Peter 1:10, KJV, displayed as spoken

Think about that. The prophets were not always standing there with the complete answer sheet. They spoke by the Spirit, yet they still searched what had been revealed through them.

Peter continues:

"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify."

On screen: 1 Peter 1:11, KJV, displayed as spoken

They knew Christ was coming. They knew suffering and glory were involved. But they did not yet see the full shape of what we now know through the gospel.

The mystery was **hidden in plain sight** through patterns, promises, and prophecies. Then Christ came.

This is where we need to correct a common mistake. **Hidden does not mean absent**.

You may not see the entire picture yet, but that does not mean God has no plan. Israel did not see everything clearly, but God was working. The prophets did not understand every detail, but God was working. Centuries passed between promises and fulfilment, but God was working.

Delay is not the same as divine inactivity.

Sometimes we assume God is absent simply because He has not shown us the complete picture. But Scripture shows us a God who can be working across generations before anyone living in the moment understands what He is building.

Movement Two

The Mystery Was Revealed to the Saints

Paul does not say the mystery remained permanently hidden. He says it is now **made manifest to the saints**.

That word "manifest" carries the idea of something being brought into view. Something once concealed is now made visible and known.

This matters because **biblical mystery is not the same as secret knowledge** reserved for an exclusive spiritual club. The gospel is not God whispering hidden codes to a few impressive people while everyone else is left confused.

Paul says the mystery was revealed so that it could be preached.

He writes in Ephesians:

"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery."

On screen: Ephesians 3:3, KJV, displayed as spoken

Paul did not invent the gospel. He did not sit down with the other apostles and say, "Right, we need a new religion. Any ideas?" The message came **by revelation**.

Paul continues:

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

On screen: Ephesians 3:5, KJV, displayed as spoken

The Spirit revealed what previous generations had not fully known. That gives the gospel **authority**.

Christianity is not based upon the creative religious opinions of clever people. It is based upon what God has made known through Christ, by the Spirit, and preserved in the apostolic witness.

That also gives us a standard by which to test every new idea. Not every person who says, "God showed me," has actually received something from God. I know that sounds obvious, but apparently it still needs saying.

The Spirit who revealed the gospel does not contradict the Scriptures He inspired. New Testament revelation does not give us permission to drift away from apostolic truth. It brings us back to it.

Paul did receive revelation, but what he preached agreed with God's purpose revealed throughout Scripture and centred completely upon Christ.

This is why our faith must remain **anchored in the Word**.

Feelings can be strong. Experiences can be convincing. Personal impressions can seem spiritual. But the revealed mystery has already been made known through Christ and His apostles.

We do not need to invent a more exciting gospel. We need to see the glory of the one God has already revealed.

Movement Three

The Gentiles Were Not Standing at the Edge

Now we come to one of the parts that made this mystery so astonishing.

Paul says:

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles."

On screen: Colossians 1:27, KJV, displayed as spoken

The mystery was being revealed **among the Gentiles**.

For many Jewish people in the first century, this would have been difficult to grasp. Yes, the Old Testament promised blessing for the nations. Yes, God told Abraham that all families of the earth would be blessed through him. But the full equality of believing Gentiles within the body of Christ was not understood clearly until the gospel was revealed.

Paul explains it plainly:

"That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel."

On screen: Ephesians 3:6, KJV, displayed as spoken

Look at those words. **Fellow heirs. The same body. Partakers of the same promise.**

Not tolerated visitors. Not second-class believers. Not spiritual stepchildren who may enter as long as they sit quietly near the back.

Fellow heirs.

The mystery was not merely that Gentiles could hear about Israel's Messiah. It was that they could be **joined to Him**. The dividing wall was removed in Christ. Those who had been far off were brought near by His blood.

Paul says:

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

On screen: Ephesians 2:13, KJV, displayed as spoken

And this nearness is not simply nearness to a religious institution. It is nearness to **God Himself**.

That brings us to the heart of the mystery. The Gentiles were not merely given access to better teaching. Christ Himself would dwell in them. This was bigger than inclusion in a group. It was **inclusion in Christ**.

That means every believer, regardless of nationality, ancestry, social standing, education, or past, receives the same indwelling Christ. There is no deluxe version of Christianity for one group and a budget version for everyone else.

The same Christ. The same Spirit. The same body. The same promise. The same access to the Father.

That should change how we look at one another in the church. We may have different backgrounds. Different personalities. Different customs. Different ways of doing things. And yes, sometimes those differences can rub us the wrong way. Church people are still people, after all.

But beneath all those differences is a greater reality. **The same Christ lives within His people.**

Movement Four

The Mystery Is Christ in You

Now Paul gives the mystery in one unforgettable statement:

"Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

On screen: Colossians 1:27, KJV, displayed as spoken

Not merely **Christ for you**. That is wonderfully true. He gave Himself for us.

Not merely **Christ with you**. That is wonderfully true. He promised never to leave us.

But Paul says **Christ in you**.

This is where Christianity separates from mere external religion. External religion can give you rules. It can give you rituals. It can give you traditions. It can tell you when to stand, when to sit, what to eat, what to wear, and how to appear respectable while doing it. Some of that may have a proper place. But none of it can produce **the life of Christ within a human being**.

Under the old covenant, God's presence was associated with the tabernacle and temple. The glory filled the holy place. The priests ministered before God. The people gathered around the place where His name dwelt. But they did not casually walk into the holiest place. There was a veil. There was blood. There was a priesthood. There was distance.

Then Jesus came.

John describes Him this way:

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

On screen: John 1:14, KJV, displayed as spoken

The word "dwelt" carries the picture of tabernacling among us. The glory that filled the tabernacle was now revealed in the person of Christ.

But Jesus did not come merely to dwell among His disciples for a few years. Before the cross, He promised something even greater:

"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

On screen: John 14:20, KJV, displayed as spoken

There it is again. **"I in you."**

Jesus was preparing them for life after His resurrection and the coming of the Holy Ghost. His physical departure would not mean abandonment. He would dwell within His people.

Jesus continued:

"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

On screen: John 14:23, KJV, displayed as spoken

The Father and Son making their **abode** with the believer. That is not weak language. It is the language of residence. Home. Dwelling. Presence.

Paul says it another way:

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

On screen: Galatians 2:20, KJV, displayed as spoken

Paul had not disappeared as a person. He still thought, spoke, travelled, suffered, preached, made decisions, and wrote letters. He says, "I live." Then he identifies the deepest source of that life: **"Christ liveth in me."**

This does not erase our personality. It does not turn believers into mindless spiritual puppets. It means the risen Christ becomes the source from whom the new life flows.

This is not saying our actions no longer matter. This is not permission to sit around waiting for Jesus to brush our teeth, pay our bills, and apologise to the person we offended. We remain responsible to obey.

But obedience now flows from **union rather than isolation**. We do not stand apart from Christ, desperately trying to imitate Him with whatever strength we can scrape together. His Spirit lives within us. His life is present. His power is working. His character is being formed in us.

The Christian life is not Christ shouting instructions from a great distance. It is **Christ living within His people**.

Movement Five

Christ Within Is the Hope of Glory

Paul does not merely say "Christ in you." He adds: **"The hope of glory."**

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is not crossing your fingers and hoping something good happens. **Biblical hope is confident expectation** based upon the promise and faithfulness of God.

Christ within us is the reason glory is certain.

Paul writes:

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

On screen: Romans 8:10, KJV, displayed as spoken

Our bodies remain mortal. Believers still age. We still experience weakness. We still get tired. Things hurt that did not used to hurt, and sometimes something hurts because we slept slightly wrong. That seems a little unfair, but here we are.

The presence of Christ does not mean our present bodies have already entered resurrection glory. But His presence guarantees that **mortality will not have the final word.**

Paul continues:

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you."

On screen: Romans 8:11, KJV, displayed as spoken

Notice the word again. **Dwell.** The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives within the believer.

Paul completes the promise:

"He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

On screen: Romans 8:11, KJV, displayed as spoken

Christ in us is the hope of glory because His indwelling presence connects our present life with our **future resurrection.** The glory is coming. Our mortal bodies will be changed. Corruption will put on incorruption. Mortality will put on immortality. We will see Christ and be like Him.

But there is also a **present work of glory.**

Paul writes:

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image."

On screen: 2 Corinthians 3:18, KJV, displayed as spoken

The One who lives within us is already transforming us. Not always as quickly as we would like. Not always in a straight line. Sometimes we look at our lives and think, "Lord, surely we should be further along than this."

But the answer is not to abandon hope. The answer is to recognise where our hope rests. It does not rest in our perfect performance. It rests in **the presence of Christ.**

He has not moved into His people temporarily. He has not begun a work He plans to abandon halfway through. Christ in us means **present transformation and future glory.**

Movement Six

The Mystery Must Be Preached, Taught, and Lived

Paul did not receive this mystery so he could sit quietly and admire it.

He writes:

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom."

On screen: Colossians 1:28, KJV, displayed as spoken

The mystery produced **ministry**. Paul preached Christ. Not merely principles. Not merely religious improvement. Not merely moral advice. **Christ**.

He warned every person and taught every person because the goal was not simply that people would know more. Paul says the goal was:

"That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

On screen: Colossians 1:28, KJV, displayed as spoken

The word "perfect" here carries the idea of **maturity and completeness**. Paul wanted believers to grow into the reality of who they were in Christ.

That is important because we can possess a truth without understanding how to live from it.

Christ may dwell in us, yet we may still think like abandoned people. Christ may dwell in us, yet we may approach temptation as though we have no help. Christ may dwell in us, yet we may pray as though God is a million miles away. Christ may dwell in us, yet we may measure our identity by our failures, our past, or somebody else's opinion.

So Paul teaches. He warns. He labours. He wants the revealed mystery to shape how believers actually live.

Then he says:

"Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

On screen: Colossians 1:29, KJV, displayed as spoken

That verse brings the whole teaching together. Paul labours. He strives. He works. But he does so **according to Christ's working within him**.

That is the Christian life. Not inactivity. Not self-powered exhaustion.

Paul does not say, "I do nothing because Christ does everything." Neither does he say, "Christ did His part, and now I'm on my own." He labours according to a **power working within him**.

There is human obedience, but divine energy. There is effort, but not isolated effort. There is responsibility, but also inward power.

Christ in you does not remove effort. It **changes its source**.

Practical Application

Living From the Mystery

So what do we do with this?

First, stop treating Christ as though He is always distant. Yes, He is seated at the right hand of the Father. Yes, He is exalted above every principality and power. But by the Spirit, He also lives within His people. You do not need to persuade Christ to come near every time you pray. You can approach God from the reality of union and access already given through the gospel.

Second, stop making your weakness the final statement about your life. Your weakness may be real. Your struggle may be real. Your history may be messy. But none of those things are called your hope of glory. Christ is.

Third, learn the difference between striving alone and labouring according to His working. There are days when we try to live the Christian life through sheer determination. We grit our teeth. We make promises. We tell ourselves, "This time I'm really going to get it together." Then three hours later, the old frustration returns and we wonder what happened.

The answer is not to stop obeying. It is to stop attempting obedience **independently of Christ**. Pray before responding. Bring temptation into the light. Remember what the Word says. Ask the Spirit for strength. Take the obedient step while trusting His power at work within you.

Fourth, see other believers through the mystery. Christ lives in His people. That does not mean every believer is mature. It certainly does not mean every believer is easy to get along with. But it should make us careful about contempt, bitterness, division, and casual disregard for Christ's body.

Fifth, let this truth create hope. You may not yet look like the finished work. None of us do. But the One who is the hope of glory already lives within you. God has placed the guarantee of the future inside the believer in the present.

Close

The mystery was hidden for generations.

The prophets saw pieces. The sacrifices cast shadows. The tabernacle and temple carried the pattern.

Then Christ came, and Paul declared the mystery openly:

"Christ in you, the hope of glory."

On screen: Colossians 1:27, KJV, displayed as spoken

Christianity is not merely Christ above you as Lord, Christ before you as an example, or Christ beside you as a companion.

It is also **Christ within you as life.**

You are not trying to manufacture the hope of glory.

The hope of glory has made His home in you.

Scripture Reference Sheet

Scripture	Use in the Teaching
Colossians 1:24-29	Primary teaching passage
Colossians 1:26	The mystery hidden through ages but now revealed
Colossians 1:27	Weekly anchor verse, Christ in believers
Romans 16:25	The mystery kept secret since the world began
1 Peter 1:10-11	Prophets searching what the Spirit revealed
Ephesians 3:3	Paul received the mystery by revelation
Ephesians 3:5	Revealed to apostles and prophets by the Spirit
Ephesians 3:6	Gentiles are fellow heirs and members of the same body
Ephesians 2:13	Those far off are brought near by Christ's blood
John 1:14	Christ tabernacled among humanity
John 14:20	Christ promises, "I in you"
John 14:23	The Father and Son make their abode with believers
Galatians 2:20	Christ lives in the believer
Romans 8:10-11	The indwelling Spirit guarantees resurrection life
2 Corinthians 3:18	Present transformation into Christ's image
Colossians 1:28	Preaching Christ unto maturity
Colossians 1:29	Labour according to Christ's inward working

Accuracy Notes

Bible translation

All quoted Scripture is from the King James Version.

Colossians 1:27 and the Gentiles

The phrase "among the Gentiles" is essential to Paul's argument. The mystery includes Gentile participation in God's promises, but Paul's wording moves beyond access to salvation and identifies the mystery as "Christ in you."

"Christ in you"

The script presents this as genuine spiritual indwelling through the Holy Ghost. It does not teach that believers become Christ, lose their individual identity, or share Christ's deity.

John 1:14

The connection between "dwelt among us" and tabernacle imagery reflects the meaning of the Greek verb *skenoō*, which means to dwell or tabernacle. The spoken script does not depend upon technical Greek explanation.

"Perfect" in Colossians 1:28

The word refers to maturity or completeness rather than claiming that believers attain sinless perfection through Paul's ministry.

Human effort and divine working

Colossians 1:29 supports the script's distinction between passive inactivity and self-powered striving. Paul genuinely laboured, but he did so according to God's power working within him.

Present and future glory

The teaching distinguishes present transformation from future bodily resurrection. It does not claim that the believer has already received the final glorified body.