



Richard Hughes, Editor

An outreach of Richard Hughes Ministries, Inc.

The Pen of a Ready Writer

...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:

My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).

www.richardhughesministries.org

Vol. 13, No. 9

P.O. Box 541, Cordele, GA 31010

September, 2022

The Mystery of Christ

What would you say was the central theme of Paul's letter to Colossae? I think it is stated in his prayer request, near the close of the epistle. Paul reminds us that we have a Master in heaven who treats us just and equal (Colossians 4:1). He admonishes the Church to continue in prayer, watching with thankfulness (4:2). Then he states his burden: *...that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in bonds* (Colossians 4:3).

Consider what we learn about the mystery of Christ from this one epistle. We discover that the mystery of Christ is interwoven with the mystery of God and of the Father and of Christ himself (Colossians 2:2c): it involves the Trinity. Regarding the mystery of Christ, Paul desires that our hearts would be comforted unto full assurance of understanding (Colossians 2:2a). God not only expects us to understand what Christ has done; he also expects us to acknowledge this mystery (Colossians 2:2b).

As we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, we are so to walk in him (Colossians 2:6). How did we receive Christ as our Saviour? Like the Colossian believers, we placed our faith in Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:4), having heard the word of the truth of the gospel (Colossians 1:5). That gospel, the gospel of Jesus Christ, brought forth fruit in our lives, as it did for Colossi and it does in all the world (Colossians 1:6a).

When did that "fruit" begin? Paul says of Colossi, *Since the day ye heard of it and knew the grace of God in truth* (Colossians 1:6b). The believers in Colossi illustrate Romans 10:17 – *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*. The Colossians heard of the mystery of Christ, the gospel of their salvation. They not only heard how Christ came and died, and rose again. They came to know it to be true!

They came to know that God the Father delivers sinners from the power of darkness and translates them into the kingdom of his dear Son, providing them forgiveness of sins through Christ's blood (Colossians 1:12-14). They understood that it pleased the Father to reconcile all things unto himself by the blood of Christ's cross, provided men continue in the faith of Christ, being grounded and settled, and not being moved away from the hope of the gospel (Colossians 1:19-23). God desires to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among us, which is Christ in you (Colossians 1:27)!

E-mail rhughes@richardhughesministries.org or call 229-712-9790



Vickie Wilkerson Hughes

Total Dependency on God

Two years ago, I lost my little dog, named Oreo. He was a great comfort to me on some very hard days. Just the other day, Richard started searching for another dog for me. He found a beautiful 8-week-old, solid black Shih Tzu. Oreo was a black and white Shih Tzu.

As we were driving home, I was thinking about this puppy being taken from his mother and father, and that he would be totally dependent on Richard and I for his care. This precious, little ball of fur relies totally on us for his food and his love.

I started comparing this to our total dependency on God. I know, in my own life – especially in these last five years which have been hard. I know I have had to depend on God for so many things: my daily needs, wisdom to make the right decisions, even things as simple as leaning on God to help me fix the disposal or to change light bulbs on a ladder. The list can go on and on.

I praise God that he cares and that he is faithful. Our Saviour is there for us, to daily help us in every situation. I love his Word. Two verses that have helped me: *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass* (Psalm 37:5). *I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust* (Psalm 91:2).

For the Ungodly

Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). What *faith*? For obedience, righteousness was imputed to Abraham. This was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but, for us also, to whom righteousness shall be imputed if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification (Romans 4:21-25).

Through Christ, we have access into this grace (that is, into this salvation) by faith (Romans 5:2). For, if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of none effect, because the law worketh wrath: for, where no law is, there is no transgression (Romans 4:14-15).

Therefore, it (being heirs of the promise) is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end (that) the promise might be sure to all the seed: not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all before him whom he believed, even God (Romans 4:16-17). This is God's grace: *when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly* (Romans 5:6)!

Schedule Change:

Community Bible Church, Camden, SC, has moved the revival meeting scheduled for September 18th through the 21st to October, combining it with their Homecoming on October 16th. The meeting will run from Sunday to Wednesday, October 16th - 19th.

As a very special blessing, children from Tabernacle Children's Home will also be there on Homecoming Sunday. The Tabernacle Children's Home is a ministry of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Greenville, SC.

A Merry Heart doeth Good...

Ted saw an ad for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say, *Praise the Lord*, to make him go; and, *Amen*, to make him stop."

Ted got on the horse and said, *Praise the Lord*. Sure enough, the horse started to walk. *Praise the Lord*, Ted said again, and the horse began to trot. Ted shouted, *Praise the Lord*; and the horse broke into a full gallop. Ted hadn't noticed they were approaching a cliff. At the last moment, he shouted, *Amen!* The horse stopped right at the edge. Relieved, Ted said, *Praise the Lord!*