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Permit #361

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## True Hidden Treasures

Many a grave robber worked over the tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings looking for hidden treasure. But one of the richest — the tomb of “King Tut” — was mostly missed because it was obscured by desert sand. But when Howard Carter and his sponsor were able to gain entrance to the actual chamber where the young king’s mummy still lay, he could only marvel at the richness of the treasures within. Gold, silver, ebony, chariots — riches beyond what had been able to garner from the other tombs in the Valley — still amaze those who have the opportunity to see them or their replicas in person today. But these are earthly treasures of a dead king. What about the spiritual treasures of the eternal and living King!!!

▲ **Christ** — The apostle Paul, writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, sometimes strings together a series of grand and sweeping truths and concepts. In this section of his letter to the brethren in Colossae, He speaks of “all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding.” *Understanding* itself is a big word, in this case referring to a comprehension of the entire plan of God being executed by and summed up in the Christ who has risen to glory and who also indwells the Christian’s heart by faith. *Assurance* points to the certainty the individual would have in aligning his thoughts with God’s, of being able to prove that he understands God’s definitions and His concepts as revealed in the sacred writings. *Full assurance* even amplifies that already solid assurance. *Wealth* — spiritual wealth — is what the saints are looking for, the hidden treasures found “in a true knowledge of God’s mystery — Christ!”

▲ **The Spirit of Christ** — Jesus the Christ at one point in history took human form. But He did not stay that way, as Paul stated, “Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer” (2 Corinthians 5:16). Since Christ was no longer in the flesh, did that mean that He ceased to exist? Paul’s point clearly is that he not only knows the resurrected/glorified Christ, but the One also known as “Christ in you.” Hence, when the apostle earlier spoke of the mystery as being “Christ in you” to the Gentiles, that is not a contradiction to his later statement that the mystery is “Christ.” The Spirit of Christ is *Christ in the Spirit*.

▲ **Hidden treasures** — “God’s mystery,” avers the apostle, is “Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Again, what a sweeping statement! *All* the treasures of wisdom and knowledge! If a saint really desires wisdom and knowledge, the solution is to come to a full assurance of understanding the whole message about Christ. And these treasures are *hidden*. That means that the faithful follower of Christ is going to have search the scriptures for them; he is going to have to dig them out. But these treasures are obviously worth digging for! “I say this,” emphasizes the apostle, “that no one may delude you with persuasive argument” (Colossians 2:4). This world is doing everything possible to make people think that wisdom and knowledge are found everywhere but in Christ. The touted solutions to people’s problems are pills and counseling, as one example. But the delusions of the apparently persuasive arguments are no substitute for the true treasures hidden in Christ.

“We speak God’s wisdom in a mystery,” the apostle Paul explained to the church in Corinth, “the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory” (1 Corinthians 2:7). The Biblical world view — which focuses on what Christ has done, is doing, and will do — is antithetical to the world view presented to people by the forces of evil and darkness. Satan — the god of confusion and the god of this world — has been able to hijack the legitimate efforts of science and progress and turn them in an anti-biblical direction, to the destruction and devastation of those who do not turn to the Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and true knowledge. Keep digging!!

JAY WILSON

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