

## "COMPLETE IN CHRIST"

*Colossians 2:24-29*

### **THE COST OF THE MYSTERY, 1:24, 25**

\*Paul suffered a lot, as noted here in prison and elsewhere, 2 Cor. 11:22-28. His joyful suffering is a result of ministry (*your sake, His body = the church*, and odd-sounding *what is lacking in Christ's affliction* (probably = continued suffering allotted to Christ as His body / church suffers, see Acts 9:4

\*Most mysteries don't get you in such hot water, but this one does, Phil. 1:29

### **THE DEFINITION OF THE MYSTERY, 1:26, 27**

\*Salvation for Gentiles through an indwelling Messiah was an unknown in the past (Gentiles to be blessed for sure, Gen. 12:3, but not envisioned as such). See *mystery* occurs 3x (26,27, 2:2); *hidden* (2x) 26, 2:3. Cf. Eph. 3:1-11 and note union w/Christ in 3:1,3,4, Gal. 2:20, Rom. 8:9, I Cor. 6:14-17.

\*Paul heaps adjectives upon this mystery: 1:27--*riches of the glory*, 2:3--*treasures of wisdom*, Eph. 3:8--*unfathomable riches of Christ*. . . clearly this is a very rich and magnificent mystery! This mystery is truly a mind-teaser for the higher intellects of creation, see Eph. 3:10, I Pt. 1:12.

### **THE GOAL OF THE MYSTERY, 1:28, 29**

\*Most mysteries become pretty uninteresting after they have been solved.

\*Most mysteries do little to change us and are by and large inconsequential.

\*What kind of effect is envisioned with this great mystery?

\*Paul and his group do not just preach evangelistic messages (*and we proclaim Him* is such a message), but also *admonishes and teaches every man* (3x to stress every person need to be matured). See Col. 3:16, where we are responsible to be admonishing and teaching each other.

\*The goal of the mystery is this move towards *completion (teleion)*. This completion is another way of stating the goal of reconciliation in 1:22. See 4:12, Rom. 12:2, Js. 1:4 for sanctification usages of same term.

\*You've got to be growing more complete in your walk with the Lord, otherwise you don't appear as a mystery to the lost. They'll think they have you all figured out as just another phony.