**LifeGroup Study**

**YOU’RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK**

**You Are Really Rich**

**2022-05-08**

**Leader Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, You’re Richer Than You Think. This series is a walk through the book of Colossians. This week will look at Colossians 1:24-2:5 In this passage Paul talks about the great wealth we have in Christ. We are super rich. There is a phrase that is the password to the safe that is filled with all the amazing blessings we have. The phrase is CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY. There are amazing riches we find in our lives as we live out this truth - CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY. Today in group we’ll explore some of those riches. Our hope is that this week, as we explore the riches we have, we would experience the awe of Jesus, who He is and what He has done for us.

**ICEBREAKER:** Enter Password Here

You know the feeling, that experience of staring at the blinking cursor on your screen just below the words, “Enter Password Here”. It’s that feeling when you realize – “Oh no! I forgot my password!” What experience have you had of that time you just couldn’t remember your password? Do you have a system for remembering your passwords? Or do you have one password you use for everything? **Share a password story with your group!**  (but don’t give away your password! ☺)

**STUDY:**

1. On Sunday, Ken talked about the idea that the phrase CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY is our password to incredible riches. What did he mean by this? **What was a highlight for you from this teaching?**

READ: Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

1. Read vs. 24 again. Paul says, “I am glad when I suffer for you in my body … “ **How could Paul say this?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul goes on to say “ … for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.” (vs. 24). The literal meaning here is “I am filling up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ.” What Jesus suffered on the cross is unique and completely finished, but Jesus still suffers through his people in a world that is hostile to His message. Paul was glad to suffer because he knew this suffering helped him identify with and know Jesus more (also see Philippians 3:10)

1. Read vs. 25-26 about the message of the Gospel. **What does Paul mean that this message was kept “secret”?**

LEADER NOTE: In calling the message “secret”, Paul is drawing from Jewish apocalyptic teaching where they would talk about something being hidden for a time and then uncovered or revealed. In this perspective, the redemptive plan God had mapped out for all history had already existed in his mind, but had been hidden from people until God chose to draw back the curtain and reveal it. Through the OT prophets, God spoke of many elements of the Good News, but He kept aspects of it hidden until the NT era. “Christ in you” and the Message going to the Gentiles were parts of God’s secret plan unfolding in the NT era.

1. Think about how God has revealed His plan in your life. **What has God shown you recently about His plan for you?**

LEADER NOTE: In His grace and love, God unfolds His plan in our life. His plan begins with salvation, bringing us into right relationship with Him through Jesus. The plan continues as He grows us to be more and more like His Son. Through the Bible, the leading of His Spirit and the community of His people, God reveals His plan for us and leads us in His way. Encourage your group members to share their unique stories about how God is working out His plan in them.

1. In verse 27, Paul talks about the “glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” **Why would Paul use this phrase “glorious riches”?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul wanted the Colossians and all followers of Jesus to know the riches we have in Christ. Key to these “glorious riches” is the fact that God now lives in us in the person of Jesus! When Jesus was here on earth, He promised us He would send the Holy Spirit to live in His people (see John 14:16-17). This promise was fulfilled when God’s Spirit filled the disciples at Pentecost ( see Acts 2:1-4) and continues to be a reality as God indwells us and fills us with His Spirit today. The reality of God’s presence in us is a rich treasure that confirms our hope in Him for future glory. One day we will be glorified in Him when we receive our new, eternal bodies and see His glory face to face. His Spirit is a deposit in our lives confirming that hope. (see Romans 8:23-30 and Ephesians 1:14). These are glorious riches indeed!

1. Think about this idea of “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” **How can you treasure this gift God has given you?**

LEADER NOTE: We treasure what we love and appreciate. To treasure this gift we can spend time thinking about how this reality of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” changes everything for us. Jesus is present in you every moment of your life. He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:6). His presence in you confirms you are His child, dearly loved by Him. (John 1:12, 1 John 3:1). Jesus’ presence in us means our destiny in Him is secure. We have a glorious future in store with Him! Pondering these truths and thanking God for these realities are wonderful ways we can treasure this gift.

1. Read Colossians 2:1-3 again. **What does Paul want God’s people to experience?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul writes that he longs for believers to “be encouraged and knit together with strong ties of love.” He wants them “ … to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself.” Paul’s deep desire for God’s people is that we would experience all of the riches of what it means to be in Christ. This includes a rich experience of community with other believers and a deep confidence of who we are in Christ.

1. In verse 4, Paul tells the Colossians he is reminding them of these things so “ … no one will deceive you with fine sounding arguments.” Paul realized there are teachings and philosophies out there that can deceive us and lead us away from God’s truth. **How can we be on guard against false teachings today?**

LEADER NOTE: The best way to be on guard against false teaching is to saturate our mind with the truth. This is what Paul has been doing so far in his letter. He reminds the Colossians of who Jesus is, their identity in Christ and of the riches God longs for them to experience. Today we can fill our minds with God’s truth as we make a regular habit of reading and thinking about His truths for us in the Bible.

1. Our hope this week is that you would experience the awe of Jesus, who He is and what He has done for you. **What from our time in this study has grown your awe of Jesus?**

**EXPERIENCE GOD**

Watch Eyes Fixed on You – Phil Wickham. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEBwGd1tom0>

Pray God, thank You for helping me keep my eyes fixed on You. Thank You for the rich treasure you have given us – Christ in you, the hope of glory!

**COLOSSIANS DEVOS:**

Each week of this series we’ll have 5 devotionals for you to read on your own.

Read the devos this week and notice how this habit enriches your walk with Jesus!

<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/richer-than-you-think/>

**PRAY**

This week let’s pray for our local missions partners, P2C Digital, Kelley and Hannah. Creekside Supports Kelley Myles and Hannah Miller with P2C Digital Strategies in their online discipleship work.

* Please pray for Hannah:
For God to continue to bless the Persian online ministry, each mentor and mentee and give the leaders His wisdom and love. God's providing to have more funds for shifting to full time ministry.
* Her family and her health. Her parents are visiting in Canada. Please pray that God reveals Him to them and for Hannah and her siblings to know Jesus is the only truth.
* Mana, her daughter. Please pray for God's peace and comfort in her life.
* Pray for Kelley: For our Mentor Celebration night May 31 - that the night would spur our mentors on in their ministry and empower them to grow.

- For more Mentor Coaches, ideally, 3 more by the end of June but a regular rhythm of new ones coming one each quarter is what we'd like to see.

- For God to grow our staff team. Several of our staff have reached retirement age, praying for a new generation of staff with Digital Strategies to be raised up and fully funded to learn from our seasoned staff before they retire.