

The Great Mystery

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Colossians 1:21-29.

B. Every person wants to be all that he or she can be—there is a hunger for life in every single person.

C. The downward slide of life can be arrested—this is the good news of the gospel.

II. There is tremendous hope in the gospel, which God Himself undertakes.

A. Stages.

1. There is a beginning that constitutes a total reversal in life when the believer encounters the Savior.

a. Our alienation from God causes the evil behavior of man, but believers have been reconciled to Him.

b. God is in the process of changing your life.

1) God's goal is to make the believer whole.

2) The sign that the change is happening is the believer's continuing in faith.

2. Others have a tremendous part in our change. (Romans 10)

a. Nature is the first preacher of the gospel. (Hebrews 11:6)

b. The characteristic of those who preach the gospel is that they are servants.

c. Paul seeks to fulfill what was lacking in the afflictions of Christ referring to the challenges He faced before His death—somebody is going through a battle in order to bring us to Christ.

d. Sufferings keep us humble and useful, but they also show our concern for others.

3. The process of change requires the understanding of a great mystery: Christ in you.

a. Christ died for the believer that He might live in him.

b. The believer must practice Christ living in him now.

c. Jesus gradually began to depart to His disciples that through His death and the coming of the Spirit that they would be indwelt by Him. (Matthew 13)

d. Paul lived this way.

Application questions:

1. What is the gospel, and why is it essential for living a fulfilling life?

2. How does God use others in the transformation of a person into the image of His Son?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that he has what it takes to live an obedient and fulfilling life?
