

Only In Christ

Text: Colossians 2:1-4

Introduction:

1. Suppose one was told that only in a certain grocery store a person would receive free groceries for a year and the only stipulation was that **they had to be IN the store to win?** The question that is asked, would a person who was not IN the store have a chance to win the groceries? The answer is **no, because they were not IN** the store.
 2. The same can be said of being IN Christ. To receive the many blessings, one must be IN Christ to receive them.
 3. When a person becomes a Christian, by obeying the gospel message, the Scriptures tell us that one is *baptized INTO Christ and has put on Christ.. Galatians 3:27*
 4. In a person's obedience to the gospel and remaining faithful to Christ, they can expect many blessings that are found only IN Him...Ephesians 1:3
 5. It is God's wish that all come to repentance in order to receive the many blessings that are found only IN His Son Jesus Christ...2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Romans 8:1
 6. *In the message this morning we wish to point out some of the truths that are only IN Christ Jesus*
- I. Only in Christ can our hearts be encouraged (v 2)**
- A. *Encourage -- To inspire with hope, courage, or confidence; hearten.*
 - B. As a member of God's family throughout the ages, God has given His people encouragement.
 1. *...see the salvation of the Lord... Exodus 14:13*
 2. *..be of good cheer your sins are forgiven.. Matthew 9:2 - spoken to a man paralyzed but, today spoken to those who have obeyed the gospel and have been immersed for the remission of their sins...Acts 2:38*
 3. *..He is risen.. Mark 16:6 .. and because of His resurrection, we will also be resurrected to life eternal .. John 5:29; Matthew 25:46*
 4. *His word remains firm...1 Peter 1:25*
 5. *I will never leave thee...Hebrews 13:5*
 6. *I am thy shield...Genesis 15:1*
 7. *I will give you rest....Matthew 11:28*
 8. *I will come again...John 14:1-4*

C. Yes, there is a better tomorrow awaiting those who remain faithful until the end.

1. Revelation 21:2-4

2. Revelation 22:1-5

II. Only in Christ can we have a full assurance of understanding (v 2)

A. Understanding what the will of God is in our lives

1. Can be summed up in one sentence...Ecclesiastes 12:13

2. To fear the Lord and depart from evil...Job 28:28

3. Causing us to understand when we err...Job 6:24

4. By hearkening to His words..Job 34:16

5. His loving-kindness... Psalm 107:43

B. Of Peace...Philippians 4:7; Galatians 5:22-23

1. Of a true peace in our lives

2. Of a true peace between ourselves and our God

3. Of a true peace with our friends and neighbors

III. Only in Christ can we have a knowledge of the mystery of God and Christ (v 2)

A. *Of Christ's* purpose for coming to earth..to save those who were lost..
Matthew 18:11; Romans 3:23, 6:23

B. *Of God's* redemptive plan..Ephesians 1:9

1. That the gentiles were to be partakers of the promise...Ephesians 3:5-7

2. Concerning His Kingdom...Matthew 4:17, 16:18-19; Acts 2:47

C. *Of God's* plan for saving us from the wrath to come..1 Thessalonians 1:10..of the coming judgment...2 Corinthians 5:10

D. *In understanding* spiritual discernment..1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Conclusion:

1. Only **IN** Christ we have:

a. Encouragement in our hearts from Christ and His blessings

b. A full assurance of understanding of God's will

i. He has laid it out for us in His Word, the Bible...Psalms 33:4; John 17:17

ii. He has told us that we can understand His will...Ephesians 5:17

c. A knowledge of the mystery of God (salvation and eternal life)...Titus 1:2; 1 Peter 1:9-10

2. It is God's will that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) and has in fact commanded that we should all come to repentance (Acts 17:30) because someday He will judge (Acts 17:31) the world according to the righteousness of Christ and the question for each and every one of you is...**Are You In Christ?** *In that you may enjoy the blessings **ONLY** found **IN HIM**.*