



Colossians: Week 4 – Treasure of the Gospel

All of us are captivated by quests for treasure, especially mysterious ones that lead to glory and the fulfillment of lifetimes of searching. Stories like *Treasure Island* and the movie *Treasure Planet* strike at our desire for this kind of journey and discovery. The Gospel story tells us that Jesus Christ reconciled us back to God. Paul calls this story of reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ a mystery (Colossians 1:26; also see Ephesians 2). In Jesus Christ, God revealed his mystery of the good news about Jesus Christ desiring to display his glorious wealth of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Being reconciled to God means Christ dwells in us and makes us the body of Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church. This reconciliation unites us with the rest of the body (Colossians 1, Ephesians 2-3), and compels us to serve the Kingdom of God with the proclamation of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:24 and 28-29). Jesus Christ is our great treasure in the Gospel, and his presence in us through the Holy Spirit is our hope of glory. The glory of the wealth of God’s mystery is worth the suffering and sacrifice because the treasure of the Gospel is Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. How should our lives change because of Christ in us? What are some things we should begin to think about and do differently if the glory of God’s mystery is Christ in us and he is our hope of glory?
2. What changes in our understanding of glory or wealth, if the glorious wealth of the Gospel is “Christ in you, the hope of glory”?
3. Where and how are you called to serve, and maybe even suffer, for the Gospel? Is there something you believe God is challenging you to mature toward and how does it look like Jesus Christ?
4. Describe and discuss Christian maturity. How does a mature Christian look like Jesus Christ and what is most challenging to you about that description? How can your group grow toward that together?