

Hidden Treasure

Colossians 2:1-4

I don't imagine there is a child who has ever lived who has not dreamed of finding hidden treasure. Whether it was supposed to have been buried in a chest, hidden in the notch of a tree, or concealed in an attic trunk, such a fantastic fancy was enough to keep a child awake at night with shivers of anticipation. The search for the secret map or clues challenged many a youngster to go places they otherwise would not have gone and do things they would not have done.

Most, eventually, discard the dream. The aspiration of untold riches gives way to the reality of house payments, diapers, and deadlines. The thought of that hidden treasure which once held the power to deny rest becomes nothing more than a wistful smile while drifting off to sleep.

What if you heard of such a treasure today? Would you dare to pursue it? The Bible tells not only of such a great treasure, but also, where it can be found. Paul wrote concerning Jesus: *"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"* (Colossians 2:3). Oh, but how to pursue such a treasure?

In the preceding and following verses, Paul wrote of his fear that these believing, devout Christians would be beguiled *"with enticing words."* Because of this great fear, he encouraged them to let *"their hearts...be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ."* Wait! It sounds as though Paul is saying that if one is IN Christ, they are in possession of this treasure!

Stop and think about hidden treasure for just a moment. For a treasure to have been hidden and then found, it had to have originated somewhere. And the source of that treasure either lost it, was not able to return to retrieve it, didn't realize the value of it, or left it hidden to be retrieved by someone else. "All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" which have been hidden in Christ were placed there by God for us to find! If one has put on Christ in baptism, then they are in Christ (Galatians 3:27), and this treasure is theirs!

How many Christians today do you suppose don't realize what a treasure they possess? Paul made it fearfully clear that Satan would love to deprive you of that treasure (vs. 1, 4) by tricking you out of it. What a shame it would be if the most prized treasure of all were allowed to slip from your grasp! And here is all the more reason to follow the advice of the inspired author to prevent that from happening: making sure our hearts are comforted, being knit together with love, enjoy the full assurance of understanding, and acknowledge the mystery of God. Don't lose your treasure now that you have it!