Year A #41

In-Living Christ - Part 1

030302-1

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Today I want to talk to you about a mystery. Oh boy, can you remember as a child and somebody said, 'This is a mystery,' it seemed to really get all of your attention? You were so anxious to know what it was all about! In the Bible, there are about eleven great mysteries where, actually, the word *mystery* is used. Today I want to speak a little on the mystery of the in-living Christ Jesus. A *mystery* in Scripture is a previously hidden truth, now divinely revealed, but in which a supernatural element still remains despite the revelation.

So here we go, as we look in **Colossians 1,** starting at **verse 26**, thinking about the mystery of the indwelling Christ. If you love the Lord Jesus, this is for you. It says -

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

25 . . . given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God.

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is - *catch it* - *are you ready for it* - *this is the mystery* - **Christ in you** - *yes, you, if you love the Lord* - **the hope of glory.** I am not talking about Christ outside of you, but **Christ in you**.

It goes on to say -

28 Whom we preach, **warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect** - *that means complete* - **in Christ Jesus:**

29 Whereunto - *now listen to this* - **I also labor . . .** Oh, we are good at that! We are going to bring what we can do now. But, no. - **striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.** This is the most revolutionary doctrine that I came to find as a young Christian. It was not what I could do and my striving and my working, but it was Christ in me, the hope of glory.

There is another verse which substantiates this doctrine. It is in **Galatians 2, verse 20,** which says -

20 I am crucified with Christ: . . . Well, you say, "I do not feel crucified." Your position was that when Christ died on the Cross two thousand years ago, you were crucified with Him. You were co-crucified. **. . . nevertheless I live; . . .** Well, you certainly do live.

. . . yet not I . . . Is this the key to your life? **. . . yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

The Christian life is the out-living of the in-living Christ. Can you see why you are weary? Some days you feel as if you are two people. You are the kind of person who turns up in church and can even preach a little message, if you are a man. If you are a lady, you are able to take a Bible class and teach the children. You go through all this, but somehow that is one person. Then there is this other person. You feel that you are a phoney. You feel you are putting on being the spiritual person that everybody expects you to be, but all the time you are miserable inside. You cannot explain it, because you realize that most people around you are playing the same acting game. In fact, I think, for the most part, many of us would do very well if we went for an acting job! We

would get it very easily, because we put on an act as we present ourselves as being someone spiritual, as we meet other people. The Lord never meant for you to be living that kind of life. He says, "I am the Christian life. I am the One and now that you have been crucified with Me on the Cross of Calvary - co-crucified; co-buried; co-risen; co-ascended in Christ." Now it is Christ in you. Therefore, as you see it is Christ in you, oh, what a difference!

Can you see, as you go into this hour that you are facing right now, you can say, *Lord, I am weary of trying to be the Christian. I am weary of striving, doing things that You want. and it just all falls back on me. But, Lord, I want to be available that, in the power of the Lord Jesus, it will be Him, and Him only, living through me that I might realize this principle that it is Christ living in me and through me, which is the Christian life.* Will you tell that to the Lord? Will you say, *Lord, no longer I, but Christ in and through me.* That means that I walk humbly before Him and before others. I have nothing to boast of but Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. I believe that as you know and do those things, this awesome mystery of the indwelling Christ will literally transform not only what happens through your life, but meeting the lives of everybody around, transform them as they see Christ in and through you, moment by moment, as long as you are down here on Planet Earth. So we praise God for what He is going to do through you.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.