

# THE CHURCH IS LEAVING THE BUILDING... TO DISPLAY CHRIST TO A WATCHING WORLD!

Colossians 1:26-29

## ATTENTION: Reports show in 2017:

- Social media gains 840 new users each minute.
- Since 2013, the number of Tweets each minute has increased 58% to more than 455,000 Tweets PER MINUTE!
- YouTube usage more than tripled from 2014-2016 with users uploading 400 hours of new video each minute of every day! Users are watching 4,146,600 videos every minute.
- Instagram users upload 46,740 million posts every minute!
- The number of Facebook Posts shared each minute has increased more than 300 percent, from around 650,000 posts per minute in 2011 to 3 million posts per minutes in 2016
- Every minute on Facebook:  
510,000 comments are posted,  
293,000 statuses are updated  
136,000 photos are uploaded.
- Facebook users also click the like button on more than 4 million posts every minute!
- 3,607,080 Google searches are conducted worldwide each minute of every day.
- Worldwide, 15,220,700 texts are sent every minute!
- Instagram users post 46,740 pictures every minute.

## ATTUNE:

- Yet with all that information and communication - there are some serious voids in the world's knowledge.
  - None more pronounced than the lack of knowing God.
  - The world does not know of the most amazing mystery of all time.
    - They know of great wars fought and won and the heroes who fought them.
    - They know of the amazing ventures into outer space.
    - They know of the great discoveries of medicine and their benefits.
    - They know the beauty of masterpieces created by the remarkable masters of the arts.

- BUT this profound mystery is lost on them.

## BODY:

### • What is this mystery that has been divinely revealed?

<sup>26</sup> *...the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.* <sup>27</sup> *God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Colossians 1:26-27

- **It is Christ in all His glorious riches dwelling through His Spirit in the lives of all believers** - Jewish or Gentiles.
- Jesus referred to the same mystery in an amazing statement to His disciples the night before He went to the cross.

*If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

John 14:23

- This is the *mystery*.
  - A truth that cannot be known by man's natural abilities but is revealed through the counsel of God.
  - All progress in the Christian life takes place only as we grow in our understanding/practice of this great mystery *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- When Jesus takes up residence in your life through His Spirit He brings with Him new **desires**, new **values**, new **motives**, and new **goals**.
- He leads and fills your life with Himself.
- When we surrender ourselves to Him, our lives are changed.
- His transforming presence changes our lives which is **demonstrated before a watching world**.
- His presence within us will result in the glory of God.
  - The Holy Spirit wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes.

<sup>25</sup> *Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another.*

<sup>26</sup> *Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger,* <sup>27</sup> *and don't give the devil an opportunity.* <sup>28</sup> *Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest*

*work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> **And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit.** You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.*

Ephesians 4:30

- When believers do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions, when we do what we know is wrong, we suppress or quench the Spirit

*<sup>19</sup> Don't stifle the Spirit.*

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Transition:

The HS is working to grow believers!

**Reach new believers and grow current believers.**

- **Paul declares his goal in the ministry – which is our goal in life/ministry).**

*<sup>28</sup> We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone **mature** in Christ. <sup>29</sup> I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.*

Col. 1:28-29

- The goal of the Christian's life is to do the same.
  - To mentally, spiritually, and emotionally prepare ourselves and others with the spiritual opportunity to become *complete-mature in Christ*.
  - The word *complete-mature*" (teleios) means having reached its end, finished.
    - Paul has in mind - fully-grown individual in union with Christ.
    - A person who strives to become all that God fully intended him or her to be in Christ.

- The only way to reach this maturity is in union with Christ.
- Paul is stressing that mature believers realize that it is Christ's life in them that is the source of power, change and victory.
  - The mature believer is growing in that understanding.

- Our longing to see and experience Jesus is a sure sign that we are in Christ and He is in us.

- The one who longs for Jesus to walk with him/her and be with them for all eternity has been born spiritually.

- Such a person never outgrows Christ.
- They grow to need and desire Him more and more.
- When you feed on Christ you hunger and thirst still more and more for Him - It is ever-growing!
- An unquenchable desire for more and more of Christ is a heavenly hunger.
- It is a spiritual growth that longs for more and more of Christ every day.

- The new birth begins a process that continues throughout the Christian's life on this earth.

- The process will be completed with the return of Jesus Christ for His church..

## PROJECT:

- May God enlarge our hearts and create within us a hunger for more of Him.
  - Oh to be like Jesus!
  - I am famished for more of Jesus, *That I may know Him*
  - Not your gifts and blessings, but You, O Lord is the desire of our hearts.
  - We rejoice in Christ and nothing less than Christ will do.
  - Nothing but Christ can satisfy our need for God.
  - At death, what else will do but Christ?
  - A deathbed without Christ is an step into torment.
  - None but Christ will do!

- As a church the quality of our ministry will be defined by the maturity of those we present to Christ at His coming.
  - That goal will test the effectiveness of my preaching/teaching
  - It will be the test of the results of our Sunday School classes and youth ministry.
  - Christ in us means that the Spirit of Christ is at work in and through us.
    - Human endeavor can never accomplish God's eternal purposes, **BUT**, Christ in you and me can and will.
    - *Christ in you* energizes the present and gives prospect to the future.
    - ...is the only teacher you can fully trust with your eternal end
    - ...is the one perfect mediator who brings you into the holy presence of the God.
    - ...who bears you to the throne of grace.
    - ...as King of kings is the one who rules over every dimension of your life.
    - All of life is ordered by the Master Teacher, Priest and King who lives in you.

## **ACTION:**

- What happens when we take that to the streets?
  - When the world outside these doors see this demonstrated through each of us?
  - When we live this indwelt life as we sit and talk to a friend?
  - When we hear of the life struggles of a co-worker?
  - When we have the opportunity to invite someone to worship with you?
  - When you are betrayed, made angry, hurt, misunderstood, etc.
  - When Satan attacks?
  - When we pick up our phones with the ability to call, text, message or email anyone in the world?
  - When we work among people whom God loves but who seem unaware?
  - When we see a neighbor outside as we arrive home?
  - etc. etc. etc.

**What happens when you, a Holy Spirit filled person, with the power of Christ within and have tasted the wonders of God's love and you step into a world full of need and you in Christ are the solution?**