

GLORY OF CHRIST

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Bible for this lesson and have asked the Holy Spirit what He wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. Only use the notes that meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Aim: Teach the students about the riches of the glory of Christ for all Gentile believers.

Suggestion: Give next week's Student Lesson to your class to answer the questions. Let them share their answers in class. The questions below may help you to develop an answer in the Student Lesson.

Introduction: Before Christ came, Jews looked down on Gentiles, even if they were proselytes to the Jewish faith. They did not believe Gentiles could enjoy all the privileges God had given them. They would treat Gentile proselytes as second-rate believers. After Christ arose from the dead, life began to change for Gentile believers. Christ commanded His disciples to preach the Gospel to everyone. They began to preach it to the Jews, but soon their ministry expanded to the Gentiles. Peter discovered to his amazement at Cornelius' house that Gentiles not only could be saved, but they could also be indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 10). About this same time Saul (Paul) was converted and Jesus told him that he would be sent as His special ambassador to the Gentiles. God revealed to him that Christ would dwell in saved Gentiles and they would be given the same riches and blessings as saved Jews. "God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

How did Paul pray for the believers in the church at Colosse? 1:9-14

Paul prayed constantly for these believers that they might **know God's will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Then he prayed that they might **walk worthy of the Lord**. Four participles tell how this walk is done: it is being fruitful in every good work; increasing in (or by) the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all might to do right in trials; and giving thanks to God the Father for His blessings. Paul named five blessings: He has qualified them to share in the inheritance with the saints to live in the light; has delivered them from the power of darkness (Satan's kingdom); has re-established them into the Kingdom of His dear Son; has redeemed them by His blood; and has forgiven them of their sins (carried them away) to be remembered no more. This is how we should pray for one another.

What can believers know about the glory of Christ? 1:15-20

The glory Christ enriches believers because He lives in them. First, Christ is the very image of the invisible God. He alone reveals God's nature and being to us by the Spirit. Second, He is the firstborn of all creation. "Firstborn" is a title that declares He existed before creation and is exalted above it. Third, all things in Heaven and on earth were created by Him and for Him. Fourth, He is the head of the body; His Church. No man can take His place. Fifth, He is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead. His resurrection from the dead in a glorified body was first; He is the beginning of life for the believer. This gives Him preeminence in all things. Sixth, He is the fullness of God. He is totally God in power, nature and attributes (cf. 2:9), so God dwells in us. And seventh, He is the reconciler of all things by His blood. No one else can make that claim. The glory of Christ, who dwells in us, shares His glory with us. Praise Him for the spiritual blessings He has given all believers.

How does Christ bring peace to all believers? 1:21-23

Christ's reconciliation of believers to God was made possible by His death on the cross. He paid the penalty for the sins of every sinner to the satisfaction of God (1 Jn 2:1-2). Now sinners that put their faith in Christ's finished work of reconciliation secures their peace with God, because He makes them holy, without blame and without reproof in His sight. Now that Christ dwells in them, they cannot be lost. When we realize how utterly lost we were before we were reconciled to God and then learn of the great price that Christ paid to reconcile us, we should humbly thank Him and serve Him with our whole heart.