

God's grace and transforming power in our lives

Colossians 1:24 – 2: 7

- **Mysteries** on TV, in everyday life, in learning and literature
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- How do we react to unsolved mysteries?
- Can a sense of mystery help to draw us closer to God?
- Are we ready for our eyes to be opened to God's presence through His word?

- The **mystery** that has been kept hidden for generations but is now disclosed
- The glorious **mystery** which is Christ in you, the hope of glory
- The **mystery** of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
- I will fearlessly make known the **mystery** of the gospel (Eph 6:19)
- So that we may proclaim the **mystery** of Christ (Col 4: 3)

- Definition of **mystery** in the ordinary sense = *knowledge withheld*
- Scriptural significance = *truth revealed*
- = *spiritual truth as revealed in the gospel*
- = *Christ who is God revealed under conditions of human life submitting even to death that the will of God might be accomplished*
- = *the church which is Christ's body on earth*
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1. The grace of God (χάρις)

- **Grace** *causes* pleasure, delight, favourable regard
- **Grace** *shows* friendly disposition, loving-kindness, goodwill of giver
- **God's grace** is freely given, available to all, spontaneous
- **God's grace** *inspires* gratitude, thanksgiving, sense of favour bestowed

- We have the *privilege* of participating in the divine nature
- We are *called* to grow in **godliness**
= drawing closer to God and following in His ways each day **by His grace**

- For it is **by grace** you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** – not by works, so that no one can boast! (Eph 2: 8-9)
- For we are **God's** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which **God prepared** in advance for us to do (Eph 2: 10)
- **By the grace of God** I am what I am (1 Cor 15: 10)
- God has chosen to make known the glorious riches of this **mystery** which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory (Col 1: 27)
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- **Can you share in brief the story of how you came to faith?**
- **Can you share how God has enabled you recently to do good works for Him?**

2. Transformed by the renewing of your mind

μεταμορφουσθε

Romans 12: 2

- **Transformation** = change of form, outward appearance, character, conduct
- Changed from within: **renewal of mind** affects everything we say and do
- **How do we keep our focus on Jesus & resist conforming to the ways of the world?**
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- **Revelation**: Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away
- Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
And **we**, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **are being transformed** into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3: 16-18)
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- **Knowledge**: Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known (1 Cor 13: 12) **How can we open our eyes, ears and heart to learn more of God?**
- **Understanding**: take time to meditate and apply the Word of God to our lives
- **Wisdom** = insight into the true nature of things = Christ, power + wisdom of God (1 Cor 1: 24)
- We have the **mind** of Christ (1 Cor 2: 16)
- **How does our renewed mind-set affect our priorities for our future growth?**

3. Make every effort: keep on learning+growing

- Vision and focus from renewed mind + effort and long-term commitment
- Cast aside distractions to follow God-given passion and make a difference
- Encourage one another, each playing a part in the growth of the Body of Christ
- Do you know how special you are to God and to your fellow believers?
- Are you confident about the future, looking forward in faith to what God will do?
- Positive mind-set, full of hope
- Learn from failure, don't be defeated by it!
- Think and speak words of faith into any situation and trust God to deal with it
- Act of will to walk in God's ways and continue along the path He indicates
- Can you testify to someone today about something you have learned or seen from God this week?
- Can you encourage someone by telling them something you appreciate about them and what they contribute to the fellowship?

4. The power of God in our lives

- You will receive power (to witness) when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you (Acts 1: 8)
- **Christ** the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God** (1 Corinthians 1: 24)
- **Jesus Christ** and **Him crucified** – a demonstration of **the spirit's power** (1 C 2:1-5)
- I want to know **Christ** and the **power of his resurrection** (Phil 3:10)
- Power to speak out
- Power in prayer
- Power in action: Fan into flame the gift of God
- For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but **a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline** (2 Tim 1: 6-7)
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- **How and when do we see God's power at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us?**
- **Have you thought of joining a Life Group, or any of the teams where you would join with others in the mission and ministry of St Andrew's?**
- **Let's pray that we'll see more and more of God's power to change us to be more like Jesus as we open up to one another and confess our needs and desires.**

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Peace with God – reconciled by the blood of the cross –
God's work, not ours – overflowing with thankfulness

