

Where is God?

Part 2: "The Long-Kept Secret"

Colossians 1:25

God has sent me to help his Church and to tell his secret plan to you Gentiles. He has kept this secret for centuries and generations past, but now at last it has pleased him to tell it to those who love him and live for him. And this is the secret: Christ in you, is the hope of glory.

1. Because of ill-advised cognitive biases, we easily miss God's presence and activity.

- **Looking for Messiah in all the wrong places**
Luke 19:41-44 Matthew 23:34-39
- **Why would Jesus ask such a strange question?** *Matthew 7:9-12*
- **The apostle Paul makes the best of a bad situation** *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

2. Saul, also known as Paul, was introduced to this "secret" on his way to kill Christians.

Acts 9:3 *As Saul neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.*

3. At the "end of all things" Jesus reinforces this "secret" principle.

Matthew 25:31-45 *"But when I, the Messiah, shall come in my glory, and all the angels with me, then I shall sit upon my throne of glory. 32 And all the nations shall be gathered before me. And I will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and place the sheep at my right hand, and the goats at my left.*

34 "Then I, the King, shall say to those at my right, "Come, blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; 36 naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me.

37 Then these righteous ones will reply, "Sir, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you anything to drink? 38 Or a stranger, and help you? Or naked, and clothe you? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?" 40 "And I, the King, will tell them, "When you did it to these my brothers you were doing it to me!"

41 Then I will turn to those on my left and say, "Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. 42 For I was hungry and you wouldn't feed me; thirsty, and you wouldn't give me anything to drink; 43 a stranger, and you refused me hospitality; naked, and you wouldn't clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn't visit me." 44 "Then they will reply, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?" 45 "And I will answer, "When you refused to help the least of these my brothers, you were refusing help to me."