

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 9 (February 23-March 1)

I recently observed an eagle's attempt to attack my cat by lining itself up with the sun so that my kitty could not see the deadly approach. Spooky was much too smart and scampered onto the safety of the porch. The scene motivated me, however, to present these devotions entitled, "**Hidden in the Son.**" I hope you'll enjoy this study.

**Sunday** – February 23 (read Colossians 3:1-4)

*For you died, and your life is now **hidden** with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3, emphasis mine)*

A true Christian is one who has given his/her heart to Jesus. If we have given our heart away, there is no way we could still live selfishly for our own agendas. Our life now belongs to the One who died for our sins. When God looks at us, He sees only His Son and His sacrifice. This is what it means to be "hidden with Christ in God." Today's wonderful printed verse follows two KLUFROG (Keep Looking Up—Fully Rely On God) verses in which we are commanded to set our **hearts** and **minds** on Heavenly things (v. 1-2). It is followed by a marvelous promise: "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (v. 4). Isn't this enough to make you desire for your life to be "**hidden in the Son?**"

**Monday** – February 24

*I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept **hidden** for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. (Colossians 1:25-26, emphasis mine)*

Don't you love a good mystery? In today's text, God sets the stage to give us the greatest mystery of all time. Like Paul, I have been chosen to present this mystery to those who have never accepted God's plan of salvation as well as to those who need to grow in their faith and knowledge. God's plan for salvation and sanctification is clearly presented in the Bible (see 2 Peter 1:3-11), but many people have never heard it preached **in its fullness**. The mystery is simple: "Christ is in you, the hope of glory" (v. 27). Wow! How simple is that? The presence of Christ living in you in the form of the Holy Spirit is a deposit, guaranteeing your inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14). Do you know this secret of being "**hidden in the Son?**"

**Tuesday** – February 25

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

I highly recommend that you memorize this verse. It is very similar to Colossians 3:3 featured in Sunday's devotion. By relinquishing the reins to Jesus, Paul has given up his right to control his own future. His entire life is now devoted to the One who died in his place. How about you? Can you quote this verse as your own and truly mean it? Can you really let go and let God have control? Can you "Let Others See Jesus in You" as an old hymn challenges? If you answer, "yes" to these questions, your life will truly be "**hidden in the Son!**"

**Wednesday** – February 26

*He must become greater; I must become less. (John 3:30)*

If I desire to be seen, heard and recognized at all times, my life cannot be “**hidden in the Son.**” The truth is this: Jesus wants to become a greater part of each of our lives, which means that we must become less and less prominent. God has forced me to acknowledge that each accomplishment along the way comes only as a result of going to a place of **His** calling where **He** is about to work. This knowledge makes it ridiculous to take personal pride in any successful endeavor since it is God who has done the work through me. The concept of self-denial and humility is not taught in our education system which majors on self-esteem, but it is true to the Word of God. It is the only way to be “**hidden in the Son.**”

**Thursday** – February 27

*My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are **hidden** all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3, emphasis mine)*

Paul again talks about a **mystery** that can bring encouragement and unity among the people of God. “All the treasures of **wisdom** and **knowledge**” are “**hidden in the Son.**” This truth will keep you from feeling **proud** of your personal knowledge and wisdom as well as feeling **inferior** to any other believer. God **hides** these jewels in His Son so that we will seek to know Him better. “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). Are you really seeking to find the jewels that are “**hidden in the Son?**”

**Friday** – February 28

*It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30)*

This passage should prevent anyone from boasting about his/her own accomplishments. God has done everything; all we need to do is to accept His gift! Any **wisdom** we may possess has come to us through His Holy Spirit alive within us. We have no **righteousness** of our own, but Jesus has imputed His **righteousness** to us. We can never be holy in our own strength, but He has given His **holiness** to us. We could never have redeemed ourselves, but He gave His precious life to bring **redemption** to all who would believe in Him and come to Him. You can plainly see why **our** lives are “**hidden in the Son.**”

**Saturday** – March 1

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24)*

Since your life is “**hidden in the Son,**” you should devote your time and energy to whatever He has called and equipped you to do in order to bring glory to Him. A Christian is compelled to honor the “hidden Christ” in the workplace by “working for the Lord, not for men.” Even if you never feel appreciated by your boss or your company, Jesus will reward you for following the pattern set forth in today’s text. Many workers in our nation have no desire to **start** at a low position and do **more** than the job description requires. Those who do this, however, will be rewarded with promotions that will take them toward their own “American Dream.” Is your life “**hidden in the Son?**” Then, there is no need to “Occupy Wall Street” when you can occupy Heaven itself!