

# Challenge 6 - A Treasure that makes you Debt Free

## Challenge Scenario:

Fictional adventure stories and movies abound about maps with clues to buried treasure. These capture our imagination with the 'what if' that were me and I found that treasure -- certainly, its value could pay all my debts and release me from all their legal obligations. The journey of faith can seem much like a treasure hunt, we need a map with clues to further point us in the direction of the treasure of substantial belief, faith in something beyond us, constant and absolute. But what is that treasure? Is it too hidden to find? What debt could it pay for me?

## Scripture Reading:

Read Colossians 2:1-15 in the Amplified

Bible, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A1-15&version=AMP>

## Challenges:

1. In verses 2:1-5:
  - i. What do you identify as the map/path to the treasure of belief?
  - ii. What is the treasure?
  - iii. Are there benefits in possessing this treasure?
2. Verses 2:6-7 challenge us to reflect upon and experience this treasure we have found.
  - i. Think back on how you received Christ Jesus as Lord and consider this phrase, "*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord...*" How might the experience of the past impact your present and future relationship with Jesus your Lord?
  - ii. Write a short description of the picture or mental image that comes to mind for these phrases:
    - a. "*walk in Him*"
    - b. "*deeply rooted in Him*"
    - c. "*continually being built up in Him*"
    - d. "*established in your faith*"
    - e. "*overflowing in gratitude*"

- iii. Do a simple sketch representing what you want your faith-life to look like.
- 3. William Barclay's Daily Study Bible for Colossians labels Colossians 2:13-15, "Triumphant Forgiveness." Re-read 2:13-15 from the Bible reading link above and review the "footnotes" (g.) and (h.) below the passage.
  - i. What was your debt?
  - ii. Your treasure (from 2:1-5) has made you debt-free. The apostle Paul provides some "vivid word pictures" about having your debt wiped out. Which one of these speaks most profoundly to you and why?
    - a. A "certificate of debt" (e.g. a hand-signed I.O.U.) that is forgiven.
    - b. "Cancelled out/blotted out" (e.g. a sponge that blots out ink) the writing as if it had never been.
    - c. Nailing the certificate (e.g. accusations) that stood against you, to the cross of Christ, never to be seen again.
  - iii. William Barclay's Daily Study Bible for Colossians states, *"One other great picture flashes on the screen of Paul's mind. Jesus has stripped the powers and authorities and made them his captives. ... Paul thinks of Jesus as a conqueror enjoying a kind of cosmic triumph, and in his triumphal procession are the powers of evil, beaten for ever, for every one to see."*
    - a. Take a moment and in your mind's eye be a spectator viewing this triumphal procession - it was for you. In your prayer below express your heart for this triumph, the treasure you have and your freedom from the debt that stood against you.

#### **#Hack4Faith:**

Write 4 faith phrases that are your takeaways from this challenge.

- 1. Phrase -
- 2. Phrase -
- 3. Phrase -
- 4. Phrase -

#### **#YourFaith2Action:**

From your Faith phrases above, write 2 action statements.

- 1. Statement -
- 2. Statement -

**Prayer:**

Write a prayer.

**Discussion Preparation:**

- List any questions you would like to discuss.
- Identify 2 key discoveries you would like to share.

**Online Resources:**

- The Amplified Bible
- William Barclay's Daily Study Bible - Colossians

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