

Christ Over All

A study in Colossians

A Gospel of Hope
Colossians 1:3-8
April 14, 2024

Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing... - Colossians 1:5-6

I. FAITH, HOPE, LOVE

- Paul gives thanks to God, whom he designates as “the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Such a phrase expresses the special nature of the trinitarian Son along with his humanity as the one sent from the Father (Vs. 3; Eph. 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3).
- Known as “the triad of graces,” faith, hope and love are commonly connected by Paul as three inseparable graces received by believers in Christ (Vs. 4; Rom. 5:2-5; 1 Cor. 13:13; Gal. 5:5-6; 1 Thess. 1:3, 5:8).
- These three attributes combine to give us trust in Christ, love for our fellow believers, and anticipation for heaven. All three are gifts from God, not personal virtues (Acts 3:16; Rom. 12:3; Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 12:2).

II. HOPE IN TRUTH. HOPE TO BE SHARED.

- Our hope is not blind. It is rooted in the truth of the gospel. It is a present hope that has its fulfillment in heaven (Vs. 5; 1 Peter 1:3-9).
- The gospel of truth was, and is, bearing fruit and increasing in all the world (Vs. 6; 1:23; Acts 19:10; Rom. 15:18-24; 1 Tim. 3:16).
- This increase is due to the work of the Spirit and the evangelism the Spirit promotes (Vss. 6-8).

KNOW: The hope of the gospel is laid up for us in heaven, not on earth. It changes our lives here, but its ultimate blessing lies in our future.

DO: Share the hope you have in the gospel of truth. Wait for its fulfillment.

Suggested Reading:

5P Evangelism by Tony Guinn (Available in the LifePoint Library)

The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

What Would Jesus Do? Charles Sheldon's Classic retold for Children by Mack Thomas (Available in the LifePoint Library).

NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT: Colossians 1:9-12

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Colossians 1:3-8

1. What is Paul so thankful for in this passage?
2. The Colossians' love for the body of Christ is born out of what, according to verse 5? What is the connection here between love and hope?
3. Our hope is ultimately stored up for us in heaven. What does that mean for hope here? Can we have hope here?
4. How do the Colossians know about this gospel hope?
5. Why is evangelism such a vital part of Christianity? See Matthew 28:19-20.
6. What hope do you have? How will you live that out?