

INTRODUCTION.

CURRENTLY IN OUR STUDY OF COLOSSIANS, ~ WE ARE EXAMINING THE FIRST MAJOR section of the letter, ~ Col. ~ 1: ~ 3-8.

▶▶ Paul expresses gratitude for these believers and then expands on his statement.

LAST TIME WE LOOKED AT VERSES 3-5a.

▶▶ Paul thanked the Lord for these believers ~ because of the loyalty to Jesus and their Christ-like love for their fellow believers.

▶▶ Then Paul noted the motivation behind their loyalty and love. ~ It was "the hope laid up for" every believer "in heaven."

▷▷ Their knowledge and understanding of ~ and focus on ~ this hope ~ strengthened their loyalty to Jesus ~ and their Christ-like love for all believers.

OUR HOPE, ~ AS WE KNOW, ~ IS THE TOTALITY ~ OF WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED THE believer at the end of the age and in the life to come.

▶▶ Blessings ~ that we are absolutely certain to receive.

▶▶ And, ~ just as in the case of the Colossian believers, ~ our knowledge and understanding of ~ and focus on ~ our hope ~

▷▷ will have a strong, ~ positive influence on our lives.

▷▷ As we see in the lives of the believers in Colossae, ~ this will strengthen ~ our loyalty to Jesus and our Christ-like love for our fellow believers.

TODAY, ~ WE'LL FINISH UP THIS SECTION WITH A LOOK AT VERSES 5b-8. ↵ 1/12

IN VERSE 5b, ~ PAUL NOTES WHEN THEY FIRST HEARD ABOUT OUR HOPE.

"OF THIS YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE IN THE WORD OF THE TRUTH, ~ THE GOSPEL."

▶▶ They had heard about it before ~ when the gospel message was first proclaimed at Colossae by Epaphras.

BUT PAUL DOESN'T JUST SIMPLY STATE ~ THAT THEY FIRST HEARD ABOUT OUR hope when they heard the gospel and were converted.

IN VERSES 5b-7a, ~ HE USES WHAT HE SAYS TO START A BRIEF DISCUSSION ABOUT the gospel.

▶▶ These verses give us a wealth of information about the gospel ~ that will help us gain a better understanding of it.

▷▷ Now, ~ some of this might be a little technical in places.

IN VERSE 5b, ~ LET'S FIRST LOOK AT THE WORD "GOSPEL."

THE WORD ~ "GOSPEL" ~ MEANS ~ "GOOD NEWS."

▶▶ We encounter many kinds of good news.

▷▷ Sometimes, ~ we read a story in a magazine or watch a report on TV that is truly good news.

↪↪ But as positive as these might be, ~ they pale in comparison ~ to the good news about Jesus.

▶▶ The gospel ~ is the good news ~ that Jesus of Nazareth ~ 77

▷▷ has solved the problem of sin and death ~ through his death, ~ burial, ~ and resurrection. 77 2/12

▶▶ Paul gives us a summary of the good news in 1 Cor. ~ 15: ~ 3-4.

▷▷ For I delivered to you ~ as of first importance ~ what I also received: ~ that Christ died for our sins ~ in accordance with the Scriptures, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that he was buried, ~ that he was raised on the third day ~ in accordance with the Scriptures.

▶▶ The gospel announces ~ the only ~ genuine salvation and victory over sin and death.

▷▷ God offers this to fallen humanity ~ through the person and accomplished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

THE GOSPEL ~ ISN'T ~ THE BAD NEWS OF CONDEMNATION.

▶▶ The gospel ~ is ~ the good news of salvation.

▶▶ As the angel told the shepherds, ~ "Fear not, ~ for behold, ~ I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ~ ¶¶

▷▷ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, ~ who is Christ the Lord."

▶▶ Unfortunately, ~ some people witness as though the Gospel ~ is the bad news of condemnation.

▶▶ In our witnessing, ~ we should remember to emphasize ~ the good news about Jesus.

▶▶ Jn. ~ 3: ~ 17 says, ~ "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, ~ but in order ~ that the world might be ~ saved ~ through him."

CONTINUING IN VERSE 5b, ~ PAUL SAYS THE GOSPEL IS THE TRUTH.

"OF THIS ~ [HOPE] ~ YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE IN THE WORD OF THE TRUTH, ~ THE gospel." ¶¶ 3/12

▶▶ The phrase "the gospel" ~ explains what Paul means by "the word of truth."

▷▷ Could paraphrase this way: ~ "when you heard the word of truth, ~ that is, ~ the gospel."

▶▶ Here Paul sets forth the essential nature of the gospel: ~ it is ~ the truth.

▶▶ And to drive home his point, ~ he refers to the gospel as truth a second time, ~ in [verse 6](#).

KEEPING THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF THE LETTER IN MIND, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ by describing the gospel as the "word of truth," ~ a contrast ~ with the false teaching of the Colossian heretics seems intended.

▷▷ IOW, ~ in contrast to the true message, ~ i.e., ~ the good news about Jesus, ~ the heretics' message ~ was a false message.

▶▶ Speaking of false teachers, ~ Jeremiah says, ~ in [Jer. ~ 14: ~ 14](#), ~ ¶¶

▷▷ And the LORD said to me: ~ 'The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. ~ I did not send them, ~ nor did I command them or speak to them. ~ ¶¶

↳↳ They are prophesying to you ~ a lying vision, ~ worthless divination, ~ and the deceit of their own minds."

▶▶ And [Ezek. ~ 13: ~ 6a](#) tells us ~ that the false prophets ~ "have seen false visions and lying divinations."

ALONG WITH THIS, ~ FALSE TEACHING IS EMPTY. ~ THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO IT.

▶▶ Jude called false teachers ~ "waterless clouds, ~ swept along by winds." ~ Like waterless clouds, ~ they are all show but no substance.

▷▷ The false teachers and their teachings ~ have no substance, ~ no soundness to them. ~ Their doctrines are founded on emptiness. ¶¶ 4/12

▶▶ Jude also called them ~ "wandering stars."

▷▷ The fixed stars in the heavens ~ have guided sailors and navigators in travels around the globe ~ for centuries.

▷▷ "wandering stars" is possibly a reference to shooting stars.

▷▷ Shooting stars appear bright for a moment, ~ streak across the sky, ~ and then disappear into darkness.

▷▷ Like shooting stars, ~ false teachers offer no real guidance or lasting light; ~ and they will disappear into darkness.

MORE ABOUT THE GOSPEL IN VERSE 6a, ~ NOTICE ~ THAT THE GOSPEL CAME TO Colossae.

THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT. ~ WE SHOULD NOT JUST PASS OVER IT.

▶▶ It illustrates an extremely important scriptural truth.

▶▶ The people in Colossae ~ were not seeking the gospel. ~ TPID, ~ they were not seeking for God. ~ God was seeking for them.

▷▷ And if the gospel had not come to them, ~ if God had not sought them out, ~ they would still be dead in their sins.

▶▶ In our natural, ~ unsaved state, ~ seeking God does not come naturally to us.

▷▷ Rather, ~ we run from God, ~ we reject him, ~ we hide from him. ~ We are God's enemies.

↳↳ Paul tells us in Rom. ~ 3: ~ 11b, ~ LEB, ~ "there is no one who seeks God."

AFTER ADAM AND EVE SINNED, ~ MOSES RECORDS TWO ACTIONS THAT THEY TOOK.

▶▶ 1st, ~ "they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths." (3:7) ↯ 5/12

▶▶ What was the 2nd action? (Gen. 3:8)

▷▷ "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, ~ and the man and his wife ~ hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

BUT PRAISE GOD, ~ THE LORD SEEKS US.

▶▶ We see this illustrated in the garden (Gen. 3:9)

▶▶ The gospel comes to us. ~ God takes the initiative that we are unable and unwilling to take.

▷▷ He knows that we would never seek him or call on him on our own.

↳↳ So he graciously, ~ lovingly, ~ and compassionately ~ calls out to us.

▷▷ "Come home! ~ come home! ~ Ye who are weary, ~ come home! ~ Earnestly, ~ tenderly, ~ Jesus is calling, ~ Calling, ~ O sinner, ~ come home!"

▶▶ Scripture makes this abundantly clear.

▷▷ In Ephesians, ~ Paul tells us that God ~ is "rich in mercy."

↳↳ This implies ~ that He is much more interested in being merciful to humans ~ than in bringing His wrath down upon our heads.

▷▷ In 1 Tim. ~ 2: ~ 4, ~ Paul tells us that God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

↳↳ Please understand. ~ Not saying

▷▷ And in Ezek. ~ 33: ~ 11a, ~ God says, ~ "Say to them, ~ As I live, ~ declares the Lord God, ~ I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, ~ but that the wicked turn from his way and live."

▶▶ Truly, ~ the gospel is the good news of salvation, ~ not the bad news of condemnation.

BUT HAVING SAID THIS, ~ THAT GOD WOULD RATHER PEOPLE FACE HIS MERCY, ~ love,
~ and grace ~ than His wrath, ~ 77

▶▶ it is also true ~ that when those who have rejected Jesus die, ~ they will face God's
wrath.

▷▷ Jn. ~ 3: ~ 36. ~ NIV, ~ "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, ~ but whoever
rejects the Son will not see life, ~ for God's wrath remains on them."

NEXT, ~ LET'S NOTE WHAT THE PHRASE ~ "THE WHOLE WORLD" ~ IN VERSE 6b ~
tells us about the gospel.

WHEN PAUL SAYS "THE WHOLE WORLD," ~ IT'S NOT CLEAR IF HE MEANS THE civilized
world in NT times.

▶▶ Or ~ if he was using hyperbole to emphasize the spread of the gospel.

▷▷ But something much clearer is implied from this phrase.

AND I.E., ~ THE GOSPEL ~ IS FOR EVERYONE IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

▶▶ Jn. ~ 1: 29, ~ "Behold, ~ the Lamb of God, ~ who takes away the sin of the world!"

▶▶ Jn. 3:16.

▷▷ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, ~ that ~ whoever ~ believes in
him ~ should not perish but have eternal life."

▶▶ The gospel is for everyone in the whole world. ~ It is not just for one nation or ethnic
group.

▷▷ Now, ~ as was alluded to earlier, ~ this does not mean all will be saved.

↪↪ It just simply means that the offer of the gospel is made to all people, ~ not just
one nation or ethnic group. 7/12

▶▶ This is reflected in the scene in Revelation ~ of the events in God's throne room, ~ 77

▷▷ when the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before Jesus and worshiped him. ~ Rev. ~ 5: ~ 8-10.

▷▷ And when he had taken the scroll, ~ the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, ~ each holding a harp, ~ and golden bowls full of incense, ~ which are the prayers of the saints. ~ And they sang a new song, ~ saying, ~ "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, ~ for you were slain, ~ and by your blood ~ you ransomed people for God ~ from every tribe and language and people and nation, ~ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, ~ and they shall reign on the earth."

▶▶ Also reflected in great commission. ~ Go therefore and make disciples of ~ all ~ nations.

AND THAT'S AS FAR AS WE'RE GOING TODAY. 8/8