

# CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 3

## Discipleship Hour, 7/31/2020

---

### Truth Declared (1:3-5)

In reaction to heretical teaching at Colosse, Paul will address them concerning Truth: 1<sup>st</sup> declare it; 2<sup>nd</sup> define it; 3<sup>rd</sup> defend it; 4<sup>th</sup> desire it; 5<sup>th</sup> display it.

**Review:** Last week we saw Paul's greeting -

**Colossians 1:1-2** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Saints" designates standing rather than state, legal rather than vital...

Grace and Peace is Paul's standard greeting.

In vv. 3-8 we will see Paul's praise and in vv. 9-14, Paul's prayer.

**Colossians 1:3** We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Paul's prayers were always offered in thanksgiving (e.g., Phil 3-4). In this instance he was thankful for:

- vv. 4-5 their experience of the gospel
- v. 6 their expansion of the gospel
- vv. 7-8 their evangelist of the gospel (Epaphras)

**Colossians 1:4** since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

Notice from Chapter 2 that Paul was quite concerned but did not launch his thoughts from that but from the truth of Christ. His concern:

**Colossians 2:19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that* is from God.

His foundation for launching :

**Colossians 2:6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Paul centers on the fact that they did lay hold of him. This is the normal NT approach and should be ours! We should learn this feature of thanksgiving! Notice, faith and love are mentioned but faith stands first because it is thru faith that one enters into Christ encounter. Then he adds, "And of your love."

**Galatians 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

(Love is the expression of faith.)

"For all of the saints" - All transcends human love and calls for what must be imparted by grace in the Holy Spirit. (**Romans. 5:5** love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.)

Faith is your relationship to God  
Love is your relationship to men  
Faith is your conduct toward God  
Love is your conduct toward men

**Colossians 1:5** because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

The evident intent of Paul is to say that the faith and love the Colossians have springs from the hope laid up...(1 Pt. born anew to a living hope.)

Notice it is not locked up, it is stored up ("It is out of physical sight but not out of spiritual reach")

**Faith** is based in the **past** and **rests**

**Love** is based in the **present** and **works**

**Hope** is based in the **future** and **anticipates**

God has given His people the ability to look forward, in expectancy; look back at the Christ event to find assurance of that hope; and thru that assurance act now in love.

“...the word of the truth of the gospel.” Faith, hope and love is what the Colossians learned when they heard the truth as opposed to the reference in 2:8 to false teachers:

**Colossians 2:8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

The gospel (Good News) is the word of truth

Truth is Divine reality (aletheia)

When the reality of God confronts the reality of man, remember, it's

“In Christ at Colosse,” not “at Colosse in Christ.”

Let God be true though every man be a liar.