Examples Of Faith, Love & Hope

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 1st, 2017

Text: Col. 1:3-8

### Intro

1. I Cor. 13:13: Faith, Hope & Love abide till Christ’s 2nd Coming
	1. *I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 10:32-39:* We need steadfastness to abide in faith, hope & love.
2. The book of Colossians provides a good look at what faithful brethren look like.
3. It also tells us why there are faithful brethren in Colossae: the gospel.
4. The church at Colossae wasn’t perfect (what church is?) and they suffered many problems:
	1. Human philosophy – C*ol. 2:8*
	2. Judaism – *Col. 2:11-17*
	3. Asceticism (Self-denial to extreme; self-abasement religiously) – *Col. 2:18-23*
5. Col. 1:3-8: Paul, in thanking God for them, reminded them what the gospel had done for their lives.
	1. The gospel was effective in their faith, their love, and their hope! *(I Cor. 13:13)*
6. In remaining steadfast in faith, love, and hope we proclaim the gospel at work in our lives!

#### Faith

* 1. Col. 1:4 *(I Cor. 13:13; Eph. 4:5):* Paul had heard of their faith – faith manifests itself *(Js. 2:14-26: Faith without works is dead).*
		1. Not hid in a corner *(or under a basket – Mt. 5:15).*
		2. They were obedient to Christ’s command to let their light shine *(Mt. 5:13-16).*
		3. *Heb. 11:1: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*
	2. The gospel leads to faith in Christ – Nature of Christ (Col. 1:13-18)
		1. He has a kingdom – 1:13 (Thus, a King – I Tim. 6:15; Mt. 25:31-34; Jn. 18:37)
		2. He is the Son of God – 1:13
		3. He is the Redeemer – 1:14
		4. He is the One in whom we have forgiveness of sins – 1:14
		5. He is the image of God the Father – 1:15
		6. He is the Creator – 1:16
		7. He is the Head of the church – 1:18
		8. He is risen from the dead – 1:18
	3. The gospel will produce faith in Christ that leads to obedience *(Col. 1:5; Mk. 16:15-16).*
		1. Rom. 1:16: The gospel is God’s power for salvation! (Must not ever be ashamed of it!)
	4. The gospel will produce saving faith:
		1. I Pet. 1:6-9: The result of faith: “the salvation of your souls!”
		2. Any message that denies Christ as Son of God is not the gospel!
		3. Any message that denies Christ as Head of the church is not the gospel!
		4. Any message that does not lead to obedience is not the gospel!
	5. The gospel has given us faith in Christ that will lead to the salvation of our souls!

#### Love for Brethren

* 1. Col. 1:4 *(I Cor. 13:13; Jn. 15:12):* Along with their faith, Paul also heard of their love for “all the saints.”
		1. Love = *agape (G26):* Love seeks the welfare of all (Vine) – *I Cor. 13:4-7*
	2. Faith in Christ and love for the brethren go hand-in-hand.
		1. Jn. 13:34-35: Jesus said the world would know His disciples by the way they loved one another (Jn. 15:12).
			1. Paul heard of their love – *Col. 1:4, 7-8 (reported by Epaphras)*
		2. I Jn. 4:7-8, 11-12, 20-21: Cannot love God and not love our brethren.
		3. I Pet. 1:22: Peter wrote that saints after obedience to the gospel are to “fervently love one another from the heart” (III Jn. 5-8)
	3. How love works (not just the words) – Col. 3:12-14
		1. Requires one to “put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Application in Phil. 2:3-4; Js. 2:15-16; I Jn. 3:17-18)
		2. Bearing with one another
		3. Forgiving each other (as the Lord forgave you, so also should you)
		4. Love is the perfect bond of unity
	4. These aren’t just words but ***actions*** that express our affection for one another!
	5. The Colossian brethren were great examples of faith and love!
	6. May we ever be known for our love for “all the saints!” *(III John 5-8)*

#### Hope of Heaven

* 1. Col. 1:5 *(I Cor. 13:13; Eph. 4:4):* The gospel had caused faith and love in their lives because of the hope of heaven!
		1. Col. 1:5-6: The gospel message of hope in heaven spread not just to Colossae but to *“all the world,”* that those who hear the truth may have the same hope!
		2. The gospel provides that hope in Christ who was raised from the dead *(1:18).*
		3. Rom. 8:24-25; II Pet. 3:10-12: We hope for what is not seen and eagerly wait for it!
	2. Heaven identified:
		1. Col. 3:1-3: Where Christ is *(just as He said He would go to prepare a home for His disciples – Jn. 14:2-3).*
		2. I Pet. 1:3-4: Future home of the saints – “reserved in heaven for you.”
		3. Heb. 6:18-20: This hope is an anchor for the soul, sure and steadfast!
	3. Other messages pervert the hope of Heaven!
		1. Premillennialism places emphasis on an earthly kingdom – a blissful reunion with Christ on earth!
		2. The “Social Gospel” places emphasis on the earthly kingdom as well – “reserved at the fellowship hall for you!”
		3. Secularism in the church all points to “this world” activism!
	4. *Col. 3:1-3:* We are to focus on Christ and heavenly things!
		1. Col. 1:13: We were rescued from darkness to live in the light!
	5. In the gospel we have the hope of an eternal home in Heaven with God!

## Conclusion

1. The pure gospel affects our lives:
	1. Obedience to the truth (Col. 1:5-6; Mk. 16:16)
	2. Faith in Christ (Col. 1:4)
	3. Love for brethren (Col. 1:4)
	4. Hope of Heaven (Col. 1:5)
2. We need to be teaching it so that it can spread throughout all the world *(Col. 1:6)!*
3. Despite the problems the church at Colossae faced, the members were strong in the faith.
	1. Col. 2:5-7: Theirs was a stable faith.
	2. Paul had ***heard*** of their faith & love!
4. We must make sure the gospel has taken hold of our lives so that we are living proof of it!
5. Let us proclaim the gospel in the way we live our lives and be examples of faith, love & hope! (*Col. 1:2:* “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae”)
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in sin, don’t wait till it’s too late! Repent!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!