



CHRIST THE KING
ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN HIM



Basic Christianity: Part 1

Colossians 1.3-5a

Main Idea

Give thanks to God & have faith in Christ, love the saints, and do so with a pervading Hope in Heaven

Overview

I. Thank God for every good & perfect gift

- The object of the “we’s” Thanks is God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
- He does not thank the Colossians as if they accomplished something
- James 1.17: Every good and perfect gift comes from God the Father, we should always thank Him

II. Have Faith in Christ Jesus

- Paul thanks God, in part, for the Colossians Faith in Christ
- Paul thanks God for this because he knows that it is this faith that does two things:
 - First: It reconciles them to God
 - Second: Having done so, God may receive the glory of their worship
- Faith in Christ is what Christians have always believed reconciled them to God

III. Love the church

- Paul thanks God also for the Colossians “love for all the saints”
- Having been reconciled to God they then love the thing that He loves...the saints
- Jesus said that He would build His church (Matt. 16.18), that He bought the church with His own blood (Acts 20.28) and that the church is the expression of his manifold wisdom (Eph. 3.10)
 - God has staked everything on the church
 - The saints gather to be a people & scatter to go and invite others in
- Christians who are not actively loving the saints (church), do not then love the thing Christ died for

IV. Hope in Heaven

- The thanks that Paul offers is for their Faith in Christ, love for the saints BECAUSE OF, or rooted out of, their Hope in Heaven
 - Their Hope in Heaven was the foundation of their Faith in Christ and love for the saints
- Revelation 21 teaches us what heaven is like
 - 1 John 3.2 says that when he appears we will be like him and see him as he is!
- Hope in Heaven has the eyes of faith to see through the world into the one we were made for

Questions

Discussion Starter: What is the basis of many people’s hopes today? Where are they placing their faith in order to get it?

1. Why is our thanksgiving infrequent and often self-motivated? How do we model true thanksgiving on a regular basis?
2. What do the Colossians place their faith in and why?
3. Why does Paul “always thank God” for the faith of the saints in the church at Colossae?
4. Do you often thank God for the faith of others? Why or why not? Why would it be important to do so?
5. Why would Paul thank God for the Colossians love of the saints? Discuss some tangible ways you can do the same at Restoration Church.
6. Hope in heaven served as a foundation to the Colossians faith and love. Why did this type of hope motivate them toward tangible actions of faith and love? What does that look like in the day to day?
7. Why do or don't we often hope in Heaven as these believers clearly did? What are some daily things that should drive us to hope in Heaven?

Accountability Question: What keeps you from Hoping in Heaven? Or, where are your treasuring in this world more than heaven? Or, where are you doubting heaven?