

## **Risen With Christ The Hope Of Heaven Col 1.1-8**

[The book of Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul between A.D. 60-62. Its primary focus is upon the Head of the Church our Lord Jesus Christ and who He really is. It was written to answer questions and doubts being raised by a sect, claiming to be Christian, who believed and taught that Jesus was not really the Christ, that there was a need to obey the Old Testament laws and ceremonies (Judaism) in order to be saved, and that there was a special or deeper knowledge of the Bible and only a few really were privileged to have this kind of access and only these could be trusted to interpret the Bible and faith.]

[We find many similar heresies in our day. There are many who deny the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ,]

- [There are the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Christian Scientists, and the Jesus Seminar theologians among those who call themselves Christian.]
- [There are the Muslims who confuse Christians by stating that they believe in Jesus, but fail to explain that in their acknowledgment of Jesus they deny He was Christ or God.]
- [There are the many variations of spiritualists in our day, like Oprah and her Church of O, who deny Jesus is Christ or God and in rejecting Christ develop an emotional, mystic religion of every man's heart and will.]

[The problems addressed in Colossians are still among us today. They are at work in our society, they are gendering confusion among our youth and young adults. The lack of sound doctrine preached from Christian pulpits, the failure to unequivocally trust the Word of God among our Christian Church leaders, teachers, and even head of households has given these false teachers a platform in the hearts and minds of many people. Immature Christians, hungering for a lazy faith, neglecting the study of the Word of God, have set themselves up for a faltering faith.]

[Parents, you cannot afford to be weak in your faith. You must hunger and thirst for righteousness, or the truths of God. You must let your children see, not a

legalism, but an allegiance to the unfettered and inerrant Word of God. Thereby all who see you, and hear, through your life lived out for the Lord of the Bible, that the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible is real, alive, and working in and through your life. If you are **Risen With Christ (Col 3.1)** then the reality of Christ in you should work its way out of your life.]

[The title of this series of messages taken from Colossians is found in,]

*[Colossians 3:1<sup>1</sup> If ye then be **risen with Christ**, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.]*

[This verse could easily be the central or theme verse for the entire book. For in this verse we see the lordship and deity of Christ as well as the impact His authority ought to have on our Christian lives. Without any doubt, Jesus is Christ, Jesus is alive, and Jesus is Lord. When Christians doubt whether or not Jesus is really alive and really Lord they will begin to redefine right and wrong and will begin to excuse sin in their lives.]

[Why do we see so much sin within Churches today?]

[Why do we see so much divorce among Christian families today?]

[Why do we see so many youth and young adult Christians allowing immorality into their lives?]

[The only real answer is that these people are not convinced that Jesus is the Christ, that Jesus is alive, that Jesus is Lord, and that Jesus will be their judge one day soon. The issues being addressed in Colossians are the same issues we face in our contemporary culture today. Hence, Colossians will stress who Christ is and how He should impact our lives as Christians.]

[As we begin our journey through the book of Colossians we note three things that Paul saw in these faithful Colossian Christians.]

**Notice,**

**A. The Walk of their Faith and Love (vs 3-4)** [*– We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, <sup>4</sup> Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, - Paul gave thanks for these Christians faith and love. Understand that Paul wasn't thanking God because these Christians said they had faith and love. The report that Paul had received told Paul that these Christians were living the Christian*

life and loving as Christ loved in act and deed. These Christian were walking the walk that they were talking.]

[Now, don't make the grave mistake of thinking they were walking the walk because things were easy. No, they were walking the walk of faith and love in spite of their trials and allurements. Two things come to mind about the godly, spiritual walk of these Christians.]

Matt 24.5

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Col 1.1-8

A. The Walk of their Faith and  
Love

1. **The Distractions of the Deceivers (vs 4; Matt 24.5,11,24; 2 Tim 2.15)** [- **Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus,** . . . - No doubt the deceivers were all about these

Christians. It was because Paul had heard of these false teachers that he sent godly Christian men to check on this Congregation to be sure that they were standing strong in their faith. My Christian friends make no mistake about it, there are false teachers and worldly enticements all around us. The Bible warns us,]

**[Jesus said,]**

*[Matthew 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ]*

*[Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ]*

*[Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ]*

**[Our Lord and the Word of God reminds us time after time that false teachers and deceivers will come to challenge what we believe. They will come to altar our faith just as they tried to altar the faith of these early Christians. So what must we do?]**

*[2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.]*

[You establish your faith by setting your faith upon the written Word of God. You get hungry for your Bible, you attend a Bible believing Church, you have Bible believing friends and fellowship; this is how you establish

your faith. You do not allow these deceivers to cause you to falter and you do not allow them to toss you to and fro upon the waves of worldly and religious doubt. Paul commended these Colossian Christians because of their established and strong faith.]

2. **The Dedication of the Believers (vs 4; 1 John 4.7-11; Rev 3.20; Rom 10.9-10)** [*–Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye*

1 John 4.7

*have to all the saints,* - These believers refused to be distracted from the truth of God's Word and that truth resulted in the love of God pouring out of their lives. Paul noted how these Colossian Christians loved each other and those around them. Where did this love come from? It started with the new birth. One cannot receive the

Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and fail to soon reflect the love of God. Why? Because when you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, God comes into your heart and life, and the love of God comes with Him. John wrote,]

*[1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. <sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. ]*

**[Receiving Christ** – It occurs to me that some people may be confused about what we mean when we say one must receive the Lord Jesus Christ. For instance, a Catholic might think that when they take of the eucharist and the wine in communion that they have received Christ. This is not what the Bible means when it says you must receive Christ. Receiving Christ is not a physical act, it is a spiritual act. The Bible says,]

*[Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ]*

[The picture is that Jesus is standing at the door to your heart, in a spiritual sense, and He is knocking at the door to your life. If you will open that spiritual door, through an act of your will, then the Lord Jesus Christ will come into your life. Hence, you receive Christ by doing Romans 10.9-10.]

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A. **The Walk of their Faith and Love**

1. The Distraction of the Deceivers

*[Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ]*

[Once a person receives the Lord Jesus Christ then God takes up residence in their life and God begins to transform them into the image of Christ. If Christ is in you then the love of God is also in you and you will not be able to help but love as God loves. But it all starts with the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[The Colossian Christians were noted for their faith and love as it was revealed in their daily walk.]

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Col 1.1-8**

**A. The Walk of their Faith and Love**

1. The Distraction of the Deceivers
2. The Dedication of the Believers

**B. The Wonder of their Faith and Love (vs 5)** [*– For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; - Paul also noted the glorious hope of the gospel as it was revealed in these faithful Christians lives. In this incredible hope we might note,*]

1. **The Place Called Heaven (John 14.1-3; 2 Cor 5.1; Rev 21.1-4)** [*– As these Christians hungered and studied the Word of God they discovered passages like,*]

John 14.1

*[John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ]*

Rev 21.1

*[2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ]*

*[Revelation 21:1-4 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall*

*be with them, and be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.]*

[Now, let me be clear, these Christians could not have read these passages because these texts had not yet been penned, but those who wrote these texts were teaching them in person. They had heard the promises of heaven and their eternal life in that eternal place had become a source of great strength for them. Likewise the fact and reality of our eternal home securely positioned in our future ought to be a sure foundation for our faith and a wonder for all who work with us, know us, and meet us.]

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Col 1.1-8**

- A. The Walk of their Faith and Love**
- B. The Wonder of their Faith and Love**
  - 1. The Place Called Heaven

2. **The Prestige of Heaven** [– The hope laid up for us in heaven is not just the home of heaven but there is also the honor promised in heaven. That honor is the rewards that will be given us when we arrive in that eternally glorious place. There are five crowns and at least seven privileges granted to those who will inhabit that city of precious jewels and transparent gold. These rewards are all earned in this mortal life by the way we live our lives. These represent the prestige of heaven and compel us to live the holy godly lives that we live.]

**C. The Witness of their Faith and Love (vs 6-8)** [– *Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: <sup>7</sup> As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; <sup>8</sup> Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.* – This witness is the result of the faith, love, and hope that the Lord Jesus Christ had brought into these Christians lives. Notice that they were,]

1. **Notably Fruitful (vs 6)** [– . . . *bringeth forth fruit* . . . – The walk of these Christians lives combined with the wonder surrounding their drive became a witness to the world around them. Something was different about these Christians. When they talked about heaven there was a certainty in their voice, an assurance in their body language. These Christians were not doubtful and nothing in their lives evidenced a futility in their faith. For many religions and Churches in our culture heaven is merely a fable. The

lost are not attracted to our imaginations, they want the absolute, and they are looking for certainty. When it comes to heaven the only sense of certainty that our world will ever find is in those who claim to belong to heaven. Our confidence and assurance will produce fruit in our ministries as it did for these Colossians.]

[The deceivers who were afflicting these Christians by teaching false doctrines would destroy the faith and message of the Church and would eventually drive people away from Christ. This is exactly what is happening among Christians today. Deny the deityship of Jesus Christ and teach that Jesus is anything other than God manifest in the flesh and you destroy the faith, love, and hope of Christian men and women and drive people away from the Church.]

[But this was not the case for these Colossian Christians. They were notably fruitful because they were undeniably certain that what God had said was certain and trustworthy and all the world saw that in them. They were so persuaded that it poured out of the way these Christians lived their lives. Are you persuaded about your Savior and His promises? Can the world see the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ and the certainty of Heaven lived out in your life?]

2. **Notably Faithful (vs 8)** [- *Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.* – These Christians were faithful to the Word of God. They were faithful to the love of Christ. They were faithful to their eternal hope and that is what made them fruitful. Why were they faithful? Why did they love in the Spirit? Their faith, love, and hope were strong because they were born again and were absolutely sure that the Lord Jesus Christ was Lord indeed and heaven was their eternal home.]

[Is heaven a certainty to you? Is Jesus the Lord Jesus Christ? What does the world see in and through your life? Do you see the fruit of faithfulness around you?]

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Col 1.1-8**

- A. The Walk of their Faith and Love**
- B. The Wonder of their Faith and Love**
- C. The Witness of their Faith and Love**
  1. Notably Fruitful (vs 6)
  2. Notably Faithful (vs 8)