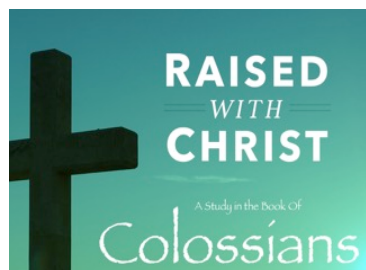


“Raised with Christ!”

Part 2: “Stable and steadfast in Christ our Head!”

Colossians 1:15-23



Introduction: Living every day by faith, being “stable and steadfast,” requires encouragement!

II Timothy 3:12-13: “All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus WILL BE persecuted!”

The hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ enables us to stand firm in our faith!

I. Our hope is in Christ: Verses 15-19 ...

Verse 15: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

Because Jesus is God in the flesh, He existed BEFORE creation.

John 1:1-3: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!” (vs. 1).

Not only was He the agent of all of creation, but He is the power that sustains all of creation, who enables it to exist.

Verse 18 ... Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, has a unique and special relationship with a particular group of people: His Body, “the Church!”

Ephesians 1:22: “And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as Head over all things TO the Church, which is His Body.”

John 17:20-21, 24-26: “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word” (vs. 20).

Verses 18-19: “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything HE might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”

II Corinthians 1:18-20: “As surely as God is faithful ... All the promises of God find their ‘YES’ in Him!” (vss. 18,20; see also I Peter 3:15-17).

II. Our hope is in God’s plan in Christ: Verses 20-22 ...

Verse 20: “... and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross.”

God’s plan is to reconcile “all things” to Himself through Jesus Christ.

The “reconciliation” Paul speaks of here is the reconciliation of all things that are part of God’s plan of reconciliation.

Verses 21-22: “And you ... He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.”

Romans 5:8-11: “For if, while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more ... shall we be saved by His life” (vs. 10).

All things in heaven and on earth that are part of God’s plan of reconciliation will be made new through Christ’s sacrifice.

III. Our hope is in the truth of the Gospel: Verse 23 ...

Verse 23: “... if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel that you heard.”

God’s question to believers: “Do you TRUST Me?!”

Hebrews 7:25: “He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him since He always lives to make intercession for them!”

Romans 8:22-28: “But if we hope for what we do NOT see, we wait for it with patience” (vs. 25).

The hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ enables us to stand firm in our faith!