

The Power of Hope

Colossians 1:15-23

A Verse-by-Verse Study of the Letter to the Colossians

INTRODUCTION:

If you had gone to Buddha and asked him, "Are you the son of Brahma?" he would have said, "My son, you are still in the veil of illusion." If you had gone to Socrates and asked, "Are you Zeus?" he would have laughed at you. If you had gone to Mohammed and asked, "Are you Allah?" he would first have rent his clothes and then cut your head off. If you had asked Confucius, "Are you Heaven?" I think he would have probably replied, "Remarks which are not in accordance with nature are in bad taste." The idea of a great moral teacher saying what Christ said is out of the question. In my opinion, the only person who can say that sort of thing is either God or a complete lunatic suffering from that form of delusion which undermines the whole mind of man.... He was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He did not produce that effect on any of the people who actually met Him. He produced mainly three effects – Hatred – Terror – Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild approval. -C. S. Lewis

Jesus is unique; in him alone is:

... the hope held out in the gospel... -Colossians 1:23

THE HOPE HELD OUT IN THE GOSPEL:

1. The hope that no PROBLEM is beyond the power of Jesus!
(Colossians 1:18b-19).

... he [Jesus] is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in EVERYTHING he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have ALL his fullness dwell in him... - Col 1:18b-19

Christ was the first to rise from death never to DIE AGAIN.
-Charles Erdman

The most extraordinary thing about the oyster is this: irritations get into his shell. He does not like them. But when he cannot get rid of them, he uses the irritation to do the loveliest thing any oyster ever has a chance to do. If there are irritations in our lives today, there is only one prescription: make a pearl. - Harry Emerson Fosdick

2. The hope that no RELATIONSHIP is beyond the power of Jesus!
(Colossians 1:20)

...and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. - Colossians 1:20

A Christian cannot WIN God's forgiveness, but he can LOSE it by refusing to extend it to a brother. - John P. Meier

Unforgiveness is the POISON we drink hoping others will DIE.

Love means to love that which is unlovable, or it is no virtue at all; FORGIVING means to PARDON the UNPARDONABLE or it is no virtue at all. -G. K. Chesterton

3. The hope that no SIN is beyond the power of Jesus!

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you HOLY in his sight, without BLEMISH and FREE from accusation... Colossians 1:21-22

The Christian is the freest of all men ... that love of Christ has given him the greatest freedom of all, not the freedom to SIN, but the freedom NOT TO SIN. -William Barclay

APPLICATION:

How do we receive this power? One condition...

If YOU continue in YOUR faith... -Colossians 1:23

How do you continue?

ESTABLISHED and FIRM, not Moved from the hope of the gospel

ESTABLISHED comes from the Greek *θεμελιω* which literally means:
LAY THE FOUNDATION.

FIRM comes from the Greek *εδραιος* which literally means:
SETTLED and STEADY.

NOT MOVED comes from the Greek *μη μετακινεω* which literally means: not to SWERVE away from.

You can receive the hope of the gospel today!