

Study Guide

COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

Jesus, Our Hope | Colossians 1:3-8

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. (ESV)

Introduction

The church at Colossae would have faced its share of difficulties. They lived in the Roman empire whose emperor at the time was Nero. The great fire of Rome broke out maybe a couple of years after Paul's letter. And while Nero did not cause the fire, he used it to his advantage both to change the aesthetics of the city which he did not like and to clamp down on the growing influence of Christianity in Rome. Blaming Christians for the fire, he arrested, tortured, and executed hundreds of Christians. In general, Nero's erratic and tyrannical behavior at times would have kept churches in the empire on edge.

They also faced local pressures as they turned to Christ. Leaving behind pagan or Jewish practices, they may have been ostracized by family, community, and the trades. They may have felt the pressure to compromise their newfound faith to avoid persecution or isolation.

It's not hard to imagine how one could lose hope in such circumstances. As Paul begins his letter to the church, he reminds them of their hope in Jesus, how that hope was evident in their lives, and in so doing, he gently reminded them not to forsake that hope. A good reminder for us as well.

The BIG Idea: Hope in Christ alone.

Hope energizes faith and love. (3-5)

Live trusting Christ boldly.
Love the saints generously.

Hope is energized by the gospel. (6-8)

Have you heard the gospel of grace?

Do you understand the gospel of grace?

Are you learning the gospel of grace?

Click or Scan to Listen

[Before the Throne of God Above](#)



[He Will Hold Me Fast](#)



Let's Think About It

Thinking about the world around us:

How do you see hopelessness displayed in the world around you?

Thinking about hope energizing faith and love:

How have difficulties and fears in life affected your hope, even as a Christian?

What role does hope play in keeping us outward focused rather than inward focused when difficulties arise?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. How does this passage energize your hope as a believer?

What two things did Paul point out as evidence of hope in the church at Colossae?

Thinking about the gospel energizing hope:

What is the deeper issue of hopelessness in the world?

How might that deeper issue affect us as believers?

What is the answer to the deeper issue of hopelessness? (Colossians 1:21-23)

How do we fight against hopelessness?

Book Recommendation
(Click or Scan)

[Overcoming the Darkness](#)

Nate Pickowicz



Sing...

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Fanny Crosby (1873)

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus is the Son of God (Colossians 1:19)

Jesus is the Lord (Romans 14:9)

Jesus is the Savior (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Jesus is the Promised Messiah (2 Corinthians 1:20)