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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Colossians 1:3-8
Lesson #3
Faith, Hope, & Love,
02/8/2026

1

“Christ is enough”!

**Paul’s joy, gratitude, peace, and love,
(in the context of suffering as a prisoner)
was a sign that he was a disciple of Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 11:1
“Be **imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.**”

1 Corinthians 15:19
“If we have **hoped in Christ in this life only,**
we are of all men most to be pitied.”

“Jesus is our model.”

2

Colossians 1

“3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and the **love** which you have for all the saints;

FAITH in Christ is linked to LOVE in this life.

5 because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, **the gospel,**

FAITH in Christ comes from HOPE in the life to come.

6 which has come to you, **just as in all the world** also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and **understood** the **grace** of God in truth; 7 just as you **learned** it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, 8 and he also **informed us of your love** in the Spirit.”

FAITH in Christ is a response to the Gospel message.

3

Colossians 1:3-8 Interpretive Paraphrase

“I praise God for — Your authentic response to the Gospel seen in your faith (commitment), hope (expectations) and love (charity). This Gospel is grounded in God’s grace through Christ, and is spread by the Spirit, throughout the whole world through teaching, and modeling the truth.”

“This is the Gospel”!
“The Word and Way of the Cross”
“Take Christian baptism seriously”!

4

1 Corinthians 13:13

“But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

As healthy Christians our response to the Gospel means understanding three things:

1. Our faith is a response to the **finished work of Christ FOR us,** not THROUGH OUR living a holy life.
2. Our hope **in Christ changes our identity and final destiny,** not our circumstances in this life.
3. Our love is **the normal fruit of Christ’s Spirit in all who believe,** not our notarization of saving faith.

5

**Christianity is the only religion that celebrates
the death of its founder**





**and calls its participants to sacrificial worship,
not to gain or keep their faith, but to show it.**

Romans 12

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God,** to present your bodies a **living and holy sacrifice,** acceptable to God, which is your spiritual **service of worship.** 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

6

1. Our faith is a response to the **finished work of Christ FOR us**, not THROUGH OUR living a holy life.

2 Corinthians 5:21
 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

7

Three great imputations

Adam's sin (unto all humanity)

Humanity's sin (unto Christ)

Christ's righteousness (unto all who believe)

8

Legal position “in Christ”
 (perfect & complete)

Life experience
 (process & incomplete)

Don't conflate these two aspects of righteousness:
Imputation of Christ's holiness through faith
Implementation of God's will through obedience

9

God's grace

Christ's work

for me

in & through me

- ✓ a **child** of God
- ✓ **fixed** position
- ✓ based on **faith**
- ✓ my **identity**
- ✓ a **disciple** of Christ
- ✓ **dynamic** posture
- ✓ based on **obedience**
- ✓ my **calling**

10

Both the Law and the Spirit point to Jesus as the Christ

Call (Standard) The Law

Surrogate (Substitute) Jesus

Paraclete (Enabler) The Spirit

11

Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

Call (Standard) The Law

Paraclete (Enabler) The Spirit

The Spirit points us to the cross. **He does not** double down on an obligation to validate faith by keeping the Law.

12

The Gospel Train

Word of the Cross

Way of the Cross

- **Facts make the train go**
- **Faith connects us to the power**
- **Freedom is the cargo (blessing)**
- **Fruit is our identity & witness**

13

The mediator between God and man **is Messiah, not Moses**

1 Timothy 2:5

“there is one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus.**”

John 5:39

“You **search the Scriptures**, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that **bear witness of Me;**”

Romans 8:15

“For you have not received a spirit of **slavery leading to fear** again, but you have received a spirit of **adoption as sons** by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!””

Galatians 3

“² This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit **by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?** ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, **are you now being perfected by the flesh?.**”

14

The emphasis of the Gospels is on the last hours of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

Teaching and Miracles

Matthew	
Mark	The Passion & Resurrection
Luke	
John	

Jesus shows us God’s love in his life and shares it in his death & resurrection

15

Gospels

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

Timeline of a 3 yr. ministry

The Passion & Resurrection

Epistles

The Apostles were obsessed with the meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection, not with his ethical words & deeds.

The relative attention given to the last hours of Jesus’ ministry.

16

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

JIM CAVIEZEL **A love story**

John 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

17

2. Our hope in Christ changes our identity and final destiny, not our circumstances in this life.

- Jesus endured Friday knowing that Sunday was coming. *Heb.12:2* “for the joy set before him endured the cross.”
- Paul viewed the sharing of Christ’s suffering as an honor. *Phil.3:10* “that I may know ... the fellowship of his suffering.”
- Our light shines brightest in our response to life’s challenges. *2 Cor.12:10* “when I am weak, then I am strong.”
- Jesus and his Apostles showed NO interest in changing the Roman empire through political power. *Matt.22:21*
- History has painted a sad picture when church and states were united. *1Pet.2:13-19* “Submit to the unreasonable.”

18

3. Their love is **the normal fruit of Christ's Spirit in all who believe**, not their notarization of saving faith.

1 John 4:8

“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

- Authentic (saving) faith will come with **LOVE from the indwelling Spirit of Christ (a new self)**.
- Love is a part of the believer's new heart that **must be “put on”, “walked in”, “activated” as an act of worship**.
- Love is the image of God within us, **bearing witness to the Spirit of Christ through us**.

19



20

1 Cor. 13:4-7 **Love is** a response to **An inner response to people and problems is the heart of a witness to the truth, power, & grace of God in Christ.**

patient trials
kind insults
not jealous success of others
does not brag success of self
is not arrogant power & authority
not unbecoming freedom
not self seeking competition
is not provoked confrontation
holds no grudges injustice
does not rejoice failure of others
rejoices in the truth gossip & slander
bears all things losses
believes/hopes all things discouragement
endures all things delayed hopes

21

Galatians 5:18

“If you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the Law.**”

Living “under the Law” means:

- **Seeing** (grading) oneself by the flesh (behavior)
- **Seeking** to find serenity, security, & significance through behavioral (ethical) discipline.
- **Sanitizing** the Laws demands to make them manageable.
- **Struggling** with guilt or pride.

22

It's God's job to save the world.
We are called to spread the Word & love our neighbor.

World Vision

23

Colossians

Next week Col.1:9-14

Grabbing for the gusto of abundant life

24