

COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

YOUTH CHURCH

We are starting to study a new book of the Bible today - Colossians. Why don't you spend the next 10 minutes and use the next page (Task 1) to discover as much as you can about the book Colossians? You could ask your parents, use the internet, or if you have a Bible with study notes in it, give them a read. Then, when you're finished, carry on with Video 1.

▼ Video 1

Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXTXIDxQsvc> from the start to 1.33. Did you find anything new that you hadn't written down before?

▶ Bible Study

- What is the key verse?
- What are the repeated words?
- What surprises you?
- What do you learn about the Colossian church?
- What is Paul's main point in this passage?
- How does this passage apply to your life as a Christian?

Colossians 1:1-8

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6 that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

▲ Read Colossians 1:1-8

Some Thoughts...

Paul speaks often about the importance of FAITH, HOPE & LOVE in the lives of Christians (he talks about it in lots of his letters - 1 Corinthians 13, Romans 5:1-5, Galatians 5:5-6, Ephesians 4:2-5 & 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:8 are all examples). These three things are foundational to the Christian life and should be really obvious in the lives, decisions and identity of all believers.

In this passage, Paul explains that faith and love are based on hope - "the faith and love that springs from the hope stored up for [them] in heaven" (verse 5). Christian hope is far more than just 'wishful thinking' - it doesn't depend on luck. Christian hope is safe and sure because it is stored for us in heaven, meaning it can't be stolen from us and is awaiting us in eternity. We can trust that this hope will become reality because it is promised by God. Think of it like this, do you have any friends who are really bad at keeping promises? If they promised that they would bring you lunch into school one day, would you still bring your own lunch as a back up incase they break their promise? Probably... But think of one of your friends who is faithful and trustworthy. If that friend offered you the same thing, you'd probably trust them enough to not bring your own lunch as a back up. Often we act on the promises made by those around us based on whether they are trustworthy and whether they've kept promises in the past. If they have a habit of breaking promises we will have a back up plan. But God's promise of heaven is so safe, sure and certain because he has never broken a promise before - we don't need a back up plan! And, even more than that, God's promise has already been accomplished through Jesus! That should fill us with the same hope that the Colossians had.

Because of the Colossians trust in God's promise and the hope that they have in it, love and faith are so noticeable in the lives of the people. Likewise, if we have real hope in God's promise of heaven, love and faith will become really noticeable in our lives too.

So, three things are foundational in the lives of you and me as Christians - FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.

FAITH in Christ
LOVE for all people
HOPE for heaven

Think about...

What is the evidence of faith, hope and love in your life? Can you think of examples of these characteristics in your actions, words, attitudes or decisions in the last month?

Which of these areas (faith, hope & love) are you strongest and weakest in? Why do you think that might be?

Can you set a challenge for the weeks ahead for you to display each of the characteristics in a really obvious way?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you grow in faith, hope & love.

Task 1

