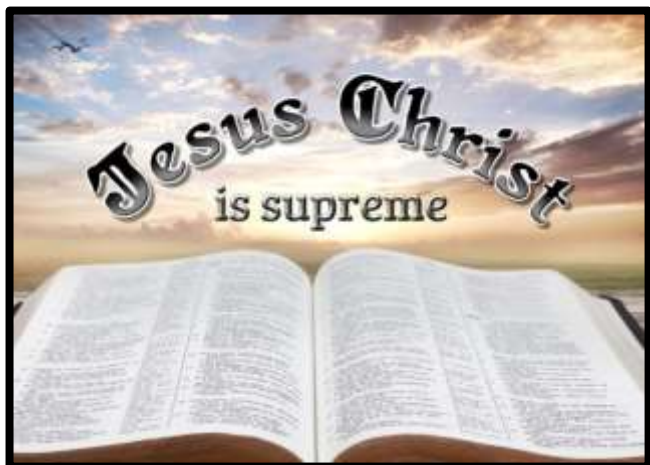


OUTLINE The Hope of Heaven: Colossians 1:3-5

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Oct 31, 2021



Colossians 1:3-5 ESV

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,

Introduction

2020: The Year Of Escapism

- this is an article published by CBC

"The countdown to a new year normally starts in December, but 2020 was different.

Anger, fear and grief reigned over this year and the immense weight of world events — from the COVID-19 pandemic to protests demanding justice over police brutality and the killings of Black and Indigenous people — threatened to crush us. To a certain extent, the idea of calling a particular year a "dumpster fire" creeps up annually, but never has that sentiment felt more universal than now. So, yes, the cries over wanting a year to be over have been louder and more urgent than in previous years. And we promise, 2020 is coming to an end soon, but 2021 unfortunately holds its own uncertainties, too.

The idea of escaping, not just 2020 but physically and mentally, has been palpable. With travelling practically becoming obsolete and social distancing fracturing our ability to connect with one another, a lot of people were forced to find new ways of transporting themselves, of finding joy, of exploring. Entertainment, and especially music, is a tried and true solution."

- everyone has had a rough 2020 and 2021, that is no secret, I do not even need to tell you that

- many church goers, pastors and churches have been beaten down, that we know for sure!

- our personal list of complaints could go on forever

- but this passage calls us to look past what has happened and to look heavenward to the _____ stored up for the believer in _____

- this passage calls us to _____ Christ even though we might not cherish the events over the last two years

- this passage calls us to look outside ourselves and do the hard work of _____ others

- the book of Colossians is the perfect _____ for us to tackle during the times we are facing and because of what we have faced

- Colossians was a letter written by Paul and _____ to a church founded in the city of Colossae

- there were some serious _____ in this church to say the least

- people in this church were teaching a dangerous philosophy that did not depend upon _____ and His _____
- people were also teaching that in order to be Christian you must _____ by all these rules and regulations of the Jewish _____
- they were also teaching that “_____ in life” was to be found in other ideas or _____ rather than in the person and work of the _____ Jesus Christ
- Paul writes this letter to _____ this church and remind them of the greatness, glory, _____, and majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ

1) (1:3) Thankfulness to God

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- Paul launches into _____ to God
 - almost all of the letters of Paul start out with thankfulness
 - however, the book of _____ does not start out with this thankfulness to God because Paul is seriously concerned that they are embracing a _____ gospel
 - but Paul is _____ to God for the Christians at Rome
- Romans 1:8** First, I thank my God through _____ Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

- and Paul is thankful to God for the _____ at Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give _____ to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

- _____ is an outpouring of appreciation to God for His work
- as you look at the book of Colossians you will see that the _____ of God the Father and the Lord Jesus is clearly stated
- in Colossians 1:12 the Father has qualified the _____ to share in this great inheritance (salvation)

Colossians 1:12 giving _____ to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the _____ of the saints in light.

- in Colossians 2:13-15 humans have been sinful and are dead in sin, but God has made His people _____ through Jesus Christ
- when we _____ God’s grace through Jesus we cannot help but _____ thanksgiving to God for His great grace given to us

- if the Colossians had saved themselves Paul would be thanking them not God
- but Paul thanks God because it is the work and grace of God who saves and _____ sinners so that God gets the _____

- Paul calls this _____, as well, to have an _____ of thankfulness in chapter 2

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- we have just celebrated thanksgiving, but that does not mean that we stop being grateful

- _____ is an attitude that we must cultivate and practice _____ our lives as we follow our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ

when we pray for you,

- Paul says that he continues to be thankful and he is _____ praying for them

- this does not mean that Paul is _____ God and praising God 24/7 without eating or sleeping

- this means that when Paul does _____ that he prays for them and is _____ to God for them

- we do not hear about the _____ of this prayer until later on in the book (Colossians 1:9-11)

Colossians 1:9-11 And so, from the day we heard, we have not _____ to pray for you, asking that you may be _____ with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual _____ and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a _____ worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,

- the content of Paul's prayer _____ that Paul cares about how they are doing with the Lord

- this is not a _____ or superficial prayer for these Christians

- do you see the emphasis of what Paul prays for these believers?

1) that they would be _____ with the knowledge of the will of God

2) that they would _____ in a way that is worthy of the Lord and pleases the Lord

3) that they would _____ fruit in good works

4) that they would be _____ with the power and might of God to endure with patience and with _____

- this prayer is for _____ Christian living and really a prayer that they would _____ in the power of the Holy Spirit

- when we pray for one another, is this _____ we pray?

2) (1:4) True Faith and Love

since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus

- that Paul has _____ heard of the faith of the Colossian church reveals that he did not plant or _____ this church in person

- we know that Paul heard about this church from Epaphras

Colossians 1:7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow _____. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf

- this church had _____ “faith” in Christ Jesus
 - this word “_____” has taken on some very strange connotations in society
 - when people hear the word “faith” in our Canadian society they think that this is a fairy tale _____ that has no evidence in reality
 - it is along the lines of... if you believe in something it is like believing in the Easter _____ or Santa Claus
 - the word _____ has become more of a fairy tale belief

 - but the Biblical definition of faith is a _____ or a confidence in the _____ of the person and work of the Lord Jesus (Jesus is nothing like the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus)
 - we can have confidence in _____ because of the evidence found in His _____
 - faith in Christ is _____ for what it means to be a Christian
 - if you do not have _____ or confidence in the person and work of Jesus Christ then you are clearly _____ a Christian

 - many people who claim to be _____ think that because they have done this or that, it _____ them a Christian
 - they think that if they just _____ and do good that will be enough for God to _____ them into heaven

 - but trusting in Christ, means _____ that there is nothing you can do to please God in and of _____
 - the only work any of us can _____ in is the work Jesus Christ did upon the _____ ; taking on the sin of the world and _____ the punishment for it
 - also we can trust the _____ of Christ to make us _____ , holy and blameless in the sight of God the Father
 - our _____ have made us unclean but Jesus Christ cleanses us from all _____ when we _____ in Him.

 - Paul, when dealing with the Galatian church, who was _____ in themselves, says this about _____ in Christ :
- Galatians 2:20-21** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no _____ I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the _____ I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who _____ me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.
- if by just trying to do good _____ could save us then the death of Jesus is pointless
 - but Christ Jesus loved people and gave Himself for people, so we trust His work and not ours!
- John 3:16** “For God so loved the _____ , that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not _____ but have eternal life.

and of the love that you have for all the saints,

- the Colossian _____ had trusted in Christ and they were _____ out the basic teachings of Jesus Christ to love one another
- we need to make a personal assessment of where we are at with this _____ to love one another
- this command to love one _____ is a huge command in the Bible
- no letter is more clear about how we are to love one another than the letter of 1 _____
- you are a child of the devil if you do not love your _____ Christian
- these are some very _____ words from John the apostle

1 John 3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

- if we do not abide in love we _____ in death

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

- if you do not love you do not _____ God
- now that is a strong statement about our spiritual condition

1 John 4:8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, _____ God is love.

- the Colossians had _____ faith because they had true love for the _____ of God
- they had experienced the love of Christ and they loved people!

3) (1:5) Truth of the Gospel

because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

- I love this verse because it is a wonderful _____ that there is _____ stored up for us in heaven
- there is _____, joy and satisfaction that is reserved for us in _____

- this same word is used by Paul, in 2 Timothy, to speak about the _____ that is reserved for him
2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous _____, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- this hope laid up, or _____ up, for us in heaven is something that most of us do not give _____ attention to

- I thought this week about all the wonderful _____ that are stored up for us in heaven
- these are just from sermons that I preached over the last year

- *1 Thessalonians 4:17 – we as believers will _____ be with the Lord*
- *1 Thessalonians 5:9 – in Christ we are _____ destined for wrath but to obtain _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord*
- *1 Thessalonians 5:10 in Christ we might _____ with the Lord forever after death*

- and there are more promises to be found in Revelation

- Revelation 21:4 – God promises that in heaven there will be no sadness, _____, mourning or crying and the Lord will wipe all these things away in the joy of His presence
- Revelation 21:5 - God will make all things _____
- Revelation 22:3 – there will be no more _____
 - the curse that was brought upon the _____ and humanity by the rebellion of Adam and Eve will be reversed
 - the curse of the law, sin and _____ has been dealt with by the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ

- these are just a few of the _____ of the things stored up for us in heaven

Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

- the Colossians had heard of the _____ found in heaven in the preaching of the gospel
- the preaching of the _____ must include the declaration of the promise of _____ life
- we see this _____ of teaching in the new testament wherever preaching of the _____ is recorded

- Paul wants to establish that the gospel that Epaphras preached was in deed the _____ gospel
- Paul knows that there was a _____ gospel out there and that it was deceptive and against Jesus Christ
- there were even people teaching that you must worship _____

- in Canada right now, we have a buffet of _____ when it comes to false gospels

1) Moralistic or Religious Gospel

- this false gospel teaches if you just live a certain way and do a good enough job you will be saved
- if you _____ certain rules and regulations, to the _____ of your ability, God will save you

2) Prosperity Gospel

- this false gospel teaches that if you have _____ faith you will _____ money, health and wealth
- but often this gospel teaches that faith is shown by giving money to people on TV

3) Self-Help Gospel

- this false gospel teaches by your own _____ you can become a better person and God will _____ your efforts by granting you further successes
- God helps you to become a better person and becoming a _____ person indeed is its own "good news"

4) Canadian Dream Gospel

- this false gospel teaches that if you _____ hard enough all your dreams will come _____

- this false gospel is proved when you _____ a great job, have the 2.5 kids, a beautiful house with a white picket fence – surely, you will have made your own heaven on earth

5) Social Justice or Woke Gospel

- this false gospel teaches that everyone must be _____

- in order to have _____ the oppressors in society must be overthrown

- there are certain types of people who are oppressed and there are certain types of people who do the oppressing

- all of these gospels are _____ because they are totally man centered and have their salvation found in something that is not _____

- these false _____ promise earthly _____ with no eternal value

- but what is the gospel of _____ that Paul is referring to here?

- we will get to this in our application!

Application

1) Do You Believe The Word Of Truth – The Gospel?

- Christian in order for us to recognize the _____ gospels out there we need to understand the _____ Gospel of Jesus Christ

- it is thought that the book of _____ most clearly teaches the gospel

- Romans 3:21-25 most concisely communicates the _____

Romans 3:21-25 But now the righteousness of _____ has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear _____ to it-- ²² the righteousness of God through _____ in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

- we _____ have righteousness or be made right with God by the law

- we can only be made right with God by Jesus Christ or through _____ in Christ

- all have _____ and that has made us unrighteous

- we have rebelled against God and against His _____

- but we can be justified or made _____ in the eyes of God through _____ in Christ and His work upon the Cross!

- Jesus bears the _____ of God in our place

- He is a sacrifice or a propitiation for our _____

- when you read of the “Gospel of Jesus” in the Bible, you will _____ think, “I will do”, but you will think, “He _____ DONE!”

- we must stop thinking that we can do _____ that can save us

- Christ Jesus has _____ His gospel work

- today if you are trusting _____ to save yourself, please stop

- if you are trusting in yourself, you are like a hamster in a spinner _____, you keep working but you are _____ moving to a place that leads to salvation
- or you can think of your works, outside of grace, like having your car in _____ and you are revving the engine and you are not _____ anywhere
- the _____ of Christ has accomplished salvation! Praise the Lord!
- if you are outside Jesus Christ, _____ Christ alone
- if you are a Christian here today _____ trusting Christ alone!

2) Let Us Ponder The Hope Stored Up For Us In Heaven!

- unfortunately, at times we _____ the glorious hope that awaits us as believers
- have we lost _____ of the wonderful hope _____ in the Lord?
- hear what Paul says in _____ about our hope!

Romans 8:18-23 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- there will be a glory that is _____ to us
- we will be _____ from the sin that still remains in us
- our _____ will experience full redemption
- let us, as believers, strive to _____ these truths of hope more
- let us not be _____, the Lord is preparing a place for us and I am confident it will be much more _____ than any lake front property
- let us not try and find our enjoyment in _____ things or seek to _____ in anything that the world offers
- but be encouraged by the _____ that Jesus has _____ for us in heaven!

NEXT SUNDAY... COLOSSIANS 1:6-8

Colossians 1:9-12

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

