

The Hope Laid Up in Heaven

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Topical / Hope; Heaven / Colossians 1:3–8

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:3–8 KJV 1900

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Introduction

ES - In Paul's letter to the Christians in Colossae he opens in a thankful prayer for these believers - grateful for their faith, love, and hope. As he communicates these things "hope" is foundational and fruitful - it was heard in the word of the truth of the gospel and it brings forth fruit. The Colossians bore the trinity of faith, love, and hope stemming from the gospel of the grace of God in truth - a hope for the world and hope that bore fruit in them.

HS - Few understand and bear the fruit of hope today, although laid up for them, it is distant and far off - few tasting the sweetness of its savour.

- A small number think on the afterlife and rarely consider heaven

- For most heaven is an unwelcome intrusion - if I were to die it would be an interruption of life (I haven't gone to Hawaii, I haven't accomplished this or that, I have possessed this, or experienced that) - truth be told even those that don't claim the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel when it comes to the examination of the heart a form resides within.
- The majority of Christians look toward heaven when all earthly gain is had - when I lived a long life, when I spent the retirement I worked for, when I traveled and crossed off my bucket list.
- Earthly comforts that are to point and direct us toward the heavenly end up being corrupted and exalted over their intended purpose and Christians become materialists.
- Instead of the heart being set on things above it is set on earth and maybe overcharged with surfeiting (excess), and although we can be overwhelmed with the cares of this life we embrace them and hold them close.
- Potentially, a large measure of believers are materialists (knowingly or unknowingly) with their affection on things below because the things above are "invisible" and they are spiritually out of touch with that which they are be set upon.
- Perhaps, they are ignorant of the hope laid up for them and thus it cannot have its fruit with them. Therefore, such exceeding glory cannot compete with the perceived glory of this life and one earth.
- Therefore, gaining an eternal, spiritual, heavenly, and hopeful perspective divined, forged, and purchased by God in Christ can sincerely and genuinely bear a longing expectation for heaven, comfort in suffering,

patience in tribulation, good works, joy, and an comprehensive understanding the best is yet to come.

Outline

1. Orientation to Heaven's Betterness
2. The Glory That Awaits
3. The Fruit of Hope
 - a. Inwardly
 - b. Outwardly

Sermon

1. **Orientation to Heaven's Betterness**

1. This World

- [Matthew 24:35](#) "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
- [Isaiah 51:6](#) "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look upon the earth beneath: For the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, And the earth shall wax old like a garment, And they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: But my salvation shall be for ever, And my righteousness shall not be abolished."
- [1 Corinthians 7:31](#) "And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."
- [2 Peter 3:10-13](#) "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works

that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

- [1 John 2:15-17](#) “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
- [Hebrews 1:10-12](#) “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.”
- [2 Corinthians 4:18](#) “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
- [Galatians 1:4](#) “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:”
- Transition
 - [Matthew 6:19-21](#) “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not

break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

2. To Come

- [Ephesians 2:7](#) “That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”
- [Romans 5:2](#) “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
- [Romans 8:18–25](#) “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”
- [Philippians 1:21](#) “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
- [Philippians 1:23](#) “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”

2. The Glory That Awaits

1. Upon Death

i. Present/At Home with the Lord

- [2 Corinthians 5:1-8](#) “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”
- [John 17:3](#) “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
- [John 17:24](#) “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

ii. Departure from the Body

1. Free From Sin
2. Free From Corruption
3. Free From Weakness
4. Free From Infirmary of Flesh
5. Free From the Worldly Vexation of the Soul

6. Free From Temptation

iii. Love

- [1 John 4:8](#) “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
- [1 Corinthians 13:4–7](#) “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”
- Truest humility, esteem of others
- Always mutual ([Php. 1](#))
- Uninterrupted
- Freely given - derived from the Son of love, the beloved
- No distance in order to be exercised
- All have part in one another
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iv. Rest

v. Fellowship

2. His Appearing

i. Glorified Body

- [Colossians 3:1–4](#) “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye

are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

- [Philippians 3:20-21](#) “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”
- Perfect capacities - enjoy God and glorify Him forever
- [1 Cor. 15:35-44](#)

ii. Labor and Work

3. The Fruit of Hope

1. Glory in Tribulations - Patience of Hope, Patient in Tribulations

- [Romans 5](#)
- [1 Thes. 1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

2. Everlasting Comfort

- [2 Thessalonians 2:13-17](#) “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting

consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”

3. Establishment of Good Works

- [1 Corinthians 15:58](#) “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”