

THE DEEPER LIFE

Trilogy of Discipleship - Colossians 1: 1-8

There are three components of the “deeper life” every true disciple of Christ *must* possess; they are faith, love, and hope.

The spiritual climate of the Colosse, was that of Polytheism – belief in many gods. At the same time, it was a paganistic society influenced *strongly* by Roman and Greek culture.

(2 Timothy 4:3-5) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

1) Paul establishes his authority.

(1 Timothy 1:12) And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

2) His target audience, *saints, and faithful brethren*.

(v.3-8) Without a test, there is no testimony!

(Psalm 11:5a) “The Lord tests the righteous...”

Faith

1 Peter 1:3-9

(Psalm 139:23-24) Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Love

(John 13:35) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

(Galatians 5:14-15) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Tested love, is learning to love like our Father! - Matthew 5:43-48

Hope

(Romans 5:3-5) And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Note: Perseverance/Character, are the pathway to true hope!

2 Corinthians 1:8-10.

Hope in Christ never fails, because His love never fails!

CONCLUSION: (v.5b, 6b) – Truth of the gospel, produces fruit of the gospel; transformed lives!

The deeper life is a call to authenticity!

(John 15:16-17) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.