

The Hope of Glory

An Exposition of Colossians

Sermon 17: Teamwork and the Hope of Glory (Conclusion)

November 29, 2020

Opening Point: It is always a little difficult for me to finish preaching through a book. For all I know, I will never preach through Colossians again. I want to make sure that I do my best to make this book understandable...clear...and that in coming months or in the new year as you read this wonderful epistle, that it will hit you a little more deeply.

I. Introduction

A. I want to remind you of what we mean when we use the phrase, “The hope of glory.”

1. This is based on **Colossians 1:27** to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
2. Stating its meaning:
 - a) The technical/long-winded answer: The hope of glory is the absolute assurance on the part of the believer, by virtue of the person and work of Jesus Christ, that his eager anticipation of inheriting eternal life in Heaven will be truly and definitely realized.
 - b) The simplified answer: Being absolutely sure that because of Jesus I will go to Heaven when I die.

B. I want to express to you how grateful I am to be called to this purpose and to this place.

1. I have been very blessed by this congregation.
2. I have been very blessed by this whole ministry team in the office.
3. I have been very blessed by the elder team.
4. I have been very blessed by my fellow pastors.

II. Teamwork and the Hope of Glory

Point: The Apostle Paul is, without question, one of the most influential people in the history of the world. He was greatly used of the Lord to write much of the New Testament. His words have been the rallying cry for many in the history of the Church, and yet we find at the end of this book that Paul realized that he could not have done what he did without the help of others. We see here that Paul understood himself to be part of something bigger than just himself. He was part of a movement that is furthered and carried out as part of a team. It is no different today.

A. A mention of multiple messengers

1. How does he describe his fellow workers?
 - a) Beloved brother
 - (1) “Beloved” (agaphtoj)—We need to remember that those with whom we serve are the object of God’s affection. He loves them.
 - (a) We need to also remember that those with whom we serve are supposed to be the objects of our affection.
 - (b) Paul didn’t say, “That brother who I tolerated.”
 - (2) “Brother” (adelfoj)—We need to remember that those with whom we serve are our equals, sharing in the work, the responsibility and the credit.
 - (3) Most of all, though, they share in the hope of glory with us. If nothing else, this should serve to endear them to us to a certain extent.
 - b) Faithful servant (deacon, minister)
 - (1) “Faithful” (pistoj)—We need to remember that those with whom we serve are called just we are and must serve their master just we do. We should appreciate and praise God for the faithful service of others. Do we?

- (2) “servant” (diakonoj)—This word can be translated, “server” or even “deacon.” We need to remember that the mission includes serving, and that serving deserves appreciation.
- c) Fellow servant (slave)
 - (1) Fellow-slave (σύνδουλος)—We need to remember that we are not rulers, even if we are called to lead. We must remember that we are not the boss. He is. Only He is. We are fellow slaves.

B. Gracious greetings

- 1. A repeated word—“Greet” (aspozomai)
- 2. What is Paul asking the Colossians to do?
 - a) Welcome them (v. 10)
 - b) Appreciate them (vv. 11-14)
 - c) Greet them for me (v. 15)

C. A concluding concern vv. 16-17—Read the Scriptures

Point: We must never forget the relationship between our assurance and the word of God! As we devote ourselves to the reading, studying and celebration of the word of God, our hope of glory deepens!

- 1. Share the word.
 - a) Isn’t it amazing how much access we have to the Bible? We have greater access to the Bible than any civilization in human history. With its availability, though, we may begin to lose a firm grip of its value.
 - b) Remember what these people needed to do simply to read one epistle from Paul!
- 2. Read the word.
 - a) How are you doing with your Bible Reading?
 - (1) Those of you who committed to reading the Bible through in 2020, are you going to make it?
 - (2) Those of you who are following a different plan or timeline, have you been faithfully reading the Bible?
- 3. Love the word.

Quote: Nothing is wanting [ie lacking in the Bible] to make life useful and comfortable, death safe and desirable, and to bring down something of heaven upon earth. But this true wisdom can be found nowhere else. If you wander from the scripture, in pursuit either a present peace or future hope, your search will end in disappointment. This is the fountain of living waters: if you forsake it, and give a preference to broken cisterns of your own devising, they will fail you when you most need them. Rejoice therefore, that such a treasure is put in your hand; but rejoice with trembling. Remember this is not all you want; unless God likewise gives you a heart to use it a right, your privilege will only aggravate your guilt and misery.” **John Newton** [Works 2:212]

D. A final final exhortation—Remember my imprisonment.

- 1. Why would Paul say this?
 - a) So that they would pray.
 - b) So that they would temper their expectations.
 - c) So that they would follow his example, if needed.
 - d) So that they would remember that everything he is doing relies on teamwork. He is still in prison!

III. A Final Review of the Hope of Glory

A. The conversion of Sinners drives us to pray for those who have the hope of glory (Colossians 1:1-12)

- 1. The conversion of sinners spurs us on to pray more eagerly.

B. The supremacy of Christ is the guarantee of the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:13-29)

- 1. The supremacy of Who Christ is.
- 2. The supremacy of what Christ accomplished for us in His death.
- 3. The supremacy of what Christ does in our lives

4. The supremacy of the message that leads us to Christ.

C. The schemes of the world try to plunder the hope of glory. (Colossians 2:1-23)

1. Legalism robs you of the hope of glory.
2. Formalism robs you of the hope of glory.
3. Ceremonialism robs you of the hope of glory.
4. Heresy robs you of the hope of glory.

D. The focus of our lives reveals our hope of glory. (Colossians 3:1-17)

1. Our Heavenly perspective is the expression of our hope of glory. (Colossians 3:1-3)
2. Our expectation of Christ's return is the expression of our hope of glory (Colossians 3:4)
3. Our spiritual growth is the expression of our hope of glory. (Colossians 3:5-17)

E. The relationships of our lives express our conviction for the hope of glory. (Colossians 3:18-4:18)

1. How you work shows how you hope for glory.
2. How you submit to authority shows how you hope for glory.

IV. Conclusions

A. Do you have the hope of glory?

1. Are you convinced that the message of the gospel is true?
2. Are you convinced that the message of the gospel is necessary?
3. Are you convinced that the Lord of the gospel is yours?

B. Do you love the hope of glory?—If you answered “yes” to the first question,

1. Are you absolute enraptured by the greatness and truthfulness of this hope of glory?
2. Does this belief have any real impact on:
 - a) How you think about Christ?
 - b) How you feel about legalism, formalism, ceremonialism, and heresy?
 - c) How you treat your spouse, your children and your co-workers.

C. Will you pursue the hope of glory? If you answered “no” to the first question,

1. Are you prepared to lay down the idols of your heart and pursue this hope of glory?
2. Are you prepared to repent of your rebellion against the Lord and pursue this hope of glory?
3. Are you prepared to receive the Lord and to give your life to the celebration of the hope of glory?
4. Are you prepared to renounce your self-sufficiency and share this hope of glory?

May the work that we do, the devotion of our hearts and the collective results of this ministry be ever and only
To the Praise of His Glory,
Amen.