

Where Hope Begins

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Colossians 1:1-8.
- B. Colossians is closely tied to the Ephesians.
- C. Colossians is primarily a letter about hope that comes by means of the gospel.
- D. The culture around Colosse had an uncertain religious atmosphere made of various claims.

II. Three crucial words: faith, hope, and love.

- A. These words are all related to each other--they are qualities of authentic Christians.
- B. Faith and love ought to spring from the hope of the gospel.
- C. To be holy means to be separated and claimed by God.
- D. Since hope produces faith and love, one must understand what produces hope.
- E. The gospel produces hope.
 - 1. This is not simply hope that one will go to heaven.
 - 2. The hope of the gospel is in the invisible spiritual kingdom we are dealing with in this very moment.
 - 3. The hope is that Jesus will be with the believer wherever he is at or whatever he faces.
- F. Love evangelizes--the gospel is spread by believers sharing where they are.

Application questions:

1. What is the relationship between faith, hope and love?

2. In what way is the gospel the foundation of all three of these values?

3. How would you respond to a believer who says that they only hope they have is in heaven when they pass away?
