

Contending for the Faith

Colossians 2.1-5

September 16th, 2018

The assurance of salvation is...

Rooted in the truth of Scripture...

- John 5.24
- John 10.28-29
- Romans 8.38-39
- 2Corinthians 5.5
- Ephesians 1.13-14

Based on the character of God

- Exodus 15.2
- Psalm 68.20
- Zephaniah 3.17
- John 3.16
- Romans 9.16

Established in the work of Christ

- Matthew 1.21
- Romans 5.8
- Hebrews 2.17-18
- 1Peter 3.18
- 1John 4.10

Contingent on faith

- Mark 16.16
- Acts 16.31
- Romans 10.9
- Ephesians 2.8-9
- Colossians 1.23 - cf. Heb, 6.4-6; John 15.4-6

Introduction: What have we been learning so far?

The city was destroyed in an earthquake in 60AD. The city never regained its former stature. Colossae's famous church was destroyed in 1192/3 during the Byzantine civil wars.

This book is all about the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ.

This week we will see that Paul tries to continue encouraging this little church by letting them know that he is not sitting in jail twiddling his thumbs, but that he is contending for their faith.

Which leads us to ask...

Main Points: how can we be a positive influence to others?

1. Be _____ in their lives - vs. 1
 - The imagery is of an athletic contest.
 - “The conflict is waged in the spiritual realm; the _____ is to the false teaching to which the churches of the Lycus valley are exposed.”¹
 - Ephesians 6.12
2. Be _____ about what you're trying to do - vs. 2-3
 - _____ the heart -- This can be translated as “that their hearts may be comforted

¹ F.F. Bruce - *Colossians* in the NICNT, p.90.

- Most literally the term means to comfort by coming alongside as in “standing beside”.
- Work for _____
 - Literally, that they be knit together. In love. Love is the yarn.
 - William Barclay says, “Without love, there is no real church. Methods of church government and ritual are not what matter. These things change from time to time and from place to place. The one mark which distinguishes a true church is love for God and for one another in community. When love dies, the church dies.²”
 - 1Corinthians 13.1-3
- Promote _____
 - And not just any understanding but complete (clear) understanding.
 - The goal of the preaching, teaching, and admonishing is to “present everyone perfect in Christ” (see 1 Thess. 2:19-20). Whoever belongs to the exalted Christ and has unwavering trust that he is Lord over all other powers and forces will be “perfect in Christ.” Perfection can be found in nothing else, and the Colossians should not allow others to dampen their faith in this hope or to entice them with enchanting arguments to try another way.³

3. Have a _____ - vs. 4-5
 - Verses 4 and 5 sum up the passage by offering the rationale for what he has written - so they won’t be _____.
 - This idea of contending for people’s faith is found in Paul’s letters to Timothy and Titus...
 - i. 1Timothy 4.1-10
 - ii. 2Timothy 3.1-17
 - iii. Titus 3.1-11

Conclusion:

_____ in people and their faith

Encourage, unite, and educate

Help people to stand _____ in their faith

Our hope is established in the _____ and _____ of Christ

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. -- Billy Graham

² Barclay, W. (2003). *The Letters to Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians* (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated, p. 150). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

³ Garland, D. E. (1998). *Colossians and Philemon* (pp. 123-124). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.