

February 9, 2020

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Unrivaled Hope  
Colossians 1:1-8

The hope of the KC Chiefs has been fulfilled as they take home the coveted and sought after “SuperBowl” trophy. The apostle Paul makes an interesting comparison in 1 Corinthians 9:27, between the “trophy” of the athlete and the imperishable “trophy” believers compete for. You may have many things you hope for in the course of life, but all pale in comparison to the unrivaled hope found in Christ!

I. This hope is CENTERED in HEAVEN, 1:5, see also 1:13-14; 1:22; 1:27.

II. This hope is DISCOVERED in the GOSPEL, 1:5-7, see also 1:23; 1:25-26.

III. This hope is RECEIVED through FAITH, 1:4; see also 1:21-23; 2:5-7.

IV. This hope is EVIDENT in LOVE, 2:4; see also 1:8; 3:12-14.

Hebrews 11:1 states simply, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Life that is truly life, being eternal and glorious, is the hope of many people, whether acknowledged or not. Only followers of Jesus know by faith and have confidence that this life, our hope, is waiting for us in heaven!

Family Time:

Discuss what it means to be “hopeless.” Then, what does it mean to have hope? Talk about some hopes among members of the family that have been fulfilled in the past (for example, something you hoped to receive as a gift, or something you hoped would happen)—identify them, talk about what fulfillment meant, and about how lasting the effect has been. Why is it important for every person to have hope beyond this life?

**For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:**

1. We did not spend much time on the greeting in Paul’s letter to the believers at Colossae (1:1-2). What do you learn from the greeting about Paul, about Timothy, and about those believers who were receiving the letter? Do you think “*grace to you and peace from God our Father*” is mere formality, or does it have greater significance?

2. Paul personalizes eternal life in the phrase “hope laid up *for you* in heaven” (1:5). What has given Paul confidence (see also 1:13-14) in the genuine saving faith of these people (vv. 4 and 8)? How is this in accord with James 2:14-26?

3. What is the “gospel” called in 1:5? Why is that, and what is the challenge to such an assertion in our present day? What can believers do to counter the denial of the existence of absolute, exclusive truth—or do we need to? Consider John 15:26-27.

4. What was (and is) the gospel doing in the world, (1:6)? What had that meant in Colossae, as Paul describes it? Be reminded of Paul’s mindset in Romans 1:15-17. Pray that the gospel will go forth from DCC through its members and ministries to do its saving work!

**NEXT WEEK:** Colossians 1:9-12, Unceasing Prayer