



THE GREETING (PART 2) FAITH HOPE AND LOVE

LESSON TWO

COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

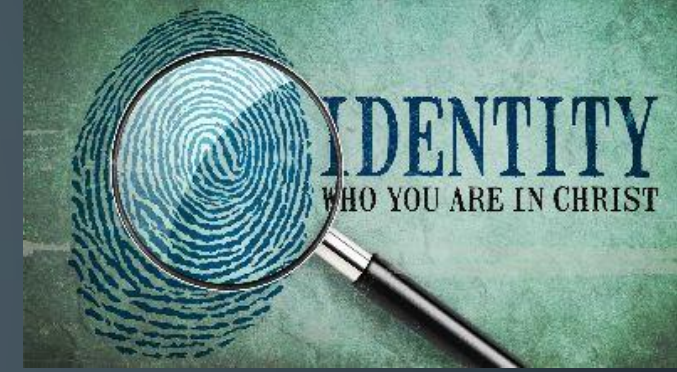
WHERE WERE WE

- Paul was in **jail** when he wrote this letter.
- In dealing with the cult's teachings of the day, he wanted the church to focus on Christ and the truth.
- Colossians is all about **Christ's preeminence** (both doctrinally and practically).
- Are we a Christ-centered church? What is a Christ-centered church suppose to look like?

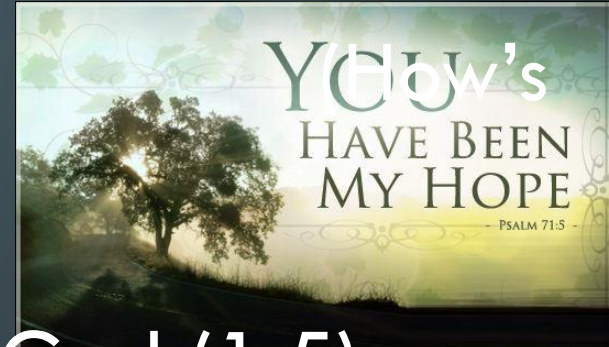


PAUL'S INTRODUCTION

- (v.1) Paul was living according to God's will.
- They were saints (who we have become)
- They were faithful brothers (who we should be)
- They were in Christ (who we are now)
- Paul blessed them to have **grace and peace**—the condition when we are in Christ Jesus as faithful saints.



- We notice Paul mentioned **faith, love, and hope** in his introduction (see 1 Cor. 13:13). Although Paul has never met them, he has heard of their **faith and love**.
your testimony?)



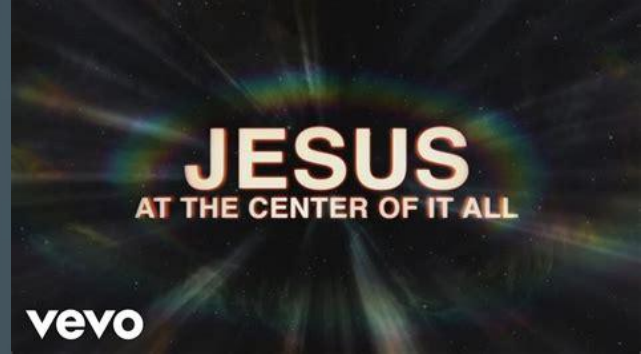
- Their faith and love are based on their hope in God (1:5).
- We can hope in God because of His **grace** to us (a gift from Him 2 Th. 2:16). God gives us this hope through the gospel according to His **grace** (v.5, 23).
- Is your **eye** fixed on heaven (the glory of God)? (Eph. 1:18-19)

THESE THREE GROW TOGETHER

- Because we **hope** in God, our faith in Christ and our love for others can grow as well.
- This is how these three are directly linked to each other.
As our faith in Jesus grows because of our hope in Him, our desire to serve and compassionate heart toward others grow as well (2 Peter 1).
- Many churches sing of their faith in God, but there is no **love**...because they have no hope or (and) faith in Christ.
- These three are signs of a Christ-centered church.



HOW CAN THIS BE?



- How can we grow in these three areas? By the **gospel**.
- Notice how the gospel was spread in the Colossian church.
- First they had **heard** of the gospel (where it all begins).
- Then they **learned** from others until they understood it.
- Finally they **knew** (understood) it and **grew** in the truth (both spiritually and in number).
- A Christ-centered church is a gospel-centered church.

CONCLUSION

- How is your **spiritual growth** in faith, hope, love? And how is your **testimony**?
- Are we a **gospel-centered church**? (in order to be Christ-centered)
- Are we **growing** in hope, faith, and love **together**? Which one of these three are we missing or not growing in?
- Do we actually understand the gospel? And are we spreading it?

