

SOLD OUT

LESSON 1 | HOW'S YOUR HOPE?

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Colossians 1:1-14 NIV

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.”

The Big Idea: How’s your Hope?

Faith and love are derivatives of Hope. Without Hope; faith and love lack substance. Paul the apostle is writing this letter from a prison in Rome to the church in Colossae encouraging them to continue to contend for that which brings forth a great measure of fruitfulness; faith, love, and hope. The big idea of this passage is if faith and love are seen to be derivatives of Hope then ask yourself, how is your Hope? Hope is defined as joyfully looking forward to something with an expectation that it will manifest. It is easy for us to become discouraged and disappointed concerning the happenings in our lives. Things like unanswered prayers, obstacles and challenges. These frustrations have the potential to compound the issues of our life leaving us crippled and jaded. But Hope. Hope has the ability to shift your gaze. Instead of becoming perplexed by your current surroundings, there is a supernatural strength that ensues from a Hope that shifts your gaze to that which you are convinced God is able to do. Knowing that your present suffering pales in comparison to the glory which God has bestowed upon you. Without this certainty there is no Hope. Without Hope we cannot expect to experience the fullness of the power released in our lives through faith and love. Paul is encouraging the church in Colossae, and us today, to contend for Hope.

The Conversation

1. How’s your Hope? Are there issues in your life that are currently contending against your Hope?
2. If faith and love are derivatives of Hope, what must we do to see faith and love increase in our lives?
3. How does the presence of faith, love, and hope impact the fruitfulness of our lives?
4. What are other aspects of the text that stand out to you?

The Takeaway

What is one aspect of your life this week you can shift to develop a greater Hope?

