

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
COLOSSIANS 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Colossians set Jesus before us as the One deserving of being our everything. (Col. 1.18)
2. Because of Jesus Christ, we have the assurance that we are right with God and have heaven in our future. [READ COLOSSIANS 2.1-7]

I. ASSURANCE BECAUSE OF JESUS

- A. You can know where you stand with God.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.2:** “attaining to all riches of the full assurance” Very emphatic.
 2. You can know if you are lost. (Heb. 10.26,27)
 3. You can know if you are saved. (1 John 5.13)
- B. **COLOSSIANS 2.2:** The full assurance because of the Bible.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.2:** “understanding.” Putting together.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 2.2:** “knowledge” Accumulated.
 3. **COLOSSIANS 2.2:** “mystery” (cf. Col. 1.26,27)
 4. **COLOSSIANS 2.3:** “wisdom” Application of knowledge.
- C. This is in contrast to the message of those who “deceive with persuasive words” (Col. 2.4)

II. ASSURANCE BECAUSE OF FAITH

- A. Assurance is maintained with a steadfast faith.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.5:** “the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” Faith that stands strong in conflict.
 2. Difficulties can cause us to question our faith. But we must remain steadfast. (cf. Rom. 4.19-21)
- B. Assurance is maintained with an obedient faith.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.6:** “so walk in Him.”
 2. Our obedience does not merit salvation but is a response of our faith. (cf. Rom. 1.16,17)
 3. **COLOSSIANS 2.7:** “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught”
 4. It is my relationship with Jesus that compels me to obey and become more established in the faith.

CONCLUSION: As a Christian, I can have assurance of heaven because of Jesus and what His word reveals.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

May 22, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD

Love is one of those things that defy definition. The dictionary says that love is “a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.” The Bible simply defines it like this: “God is love” (1 John 4.8). Whatever love is, it is consistent with the character and nature of God. Any definition of love which does not harmonize with the character of God cannot be accurate.

Because God is love, there is not a single person that has or will ever live whom God does not love. He demonstrated it by sending His Son to die on behalf of sinful man (John 3.16). You and I have been many things. We have been unworthy (1 Cor. 15.9). We have been undone (Isa. 6.5). We have been unclean (Eph. 5.5). We have been unkind (Eph. 4.32). We have been undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, and unmerciful (Rom. 1.31). We have been a lot of things, but we have never been unloved. **1 JOHN 4.10:** “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Is there anything we can do to repay God for His overabundant and sacrificial display of love? No. But we can live a lifetime of love by our faith and obedience. CLP

YOU CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

MATTHEW 14:29

INTRODUCTION:

1. Are you a man or a mouse?
2. **JOHN 1.42:** “*You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).*”
3. To do the impossible, you need to be a rock.

I. PETER DID THE IMPOSSIBLE

- A. Peter was inspired by the power of Jesus.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.27,28:** “*And Peter answered Him...*”
 2. Answered: Passive verb. Peter was moved to respond.
 3. Because of Jesus, Peter became a man of great courage. (Matt. 26.35; John 18.10; Acts 2.14; 4.19)
- B. Peter respected the authority of Jesus.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.28:** “*Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.*”
 2. Command: A verbal command from a superior.
 3. Because of Jesus, Peter acted on the authority of Jesus. (Acts 2.38; 10.33,42,48)
- C. Peter trusted in the compassion of Jesus.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.29,30:** “*Lord, save me!*”
 2. Because of Jesus, Peter preached forgiveness. (Acts 2.38)

II. YOU CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

- A. We need to be inspired by the strength of Jesus.
 1. Jesus demonstrated His strength as He was repeatedly attacked. (Matt. 12.2; Mark 3.2; Luke 13.14; Matt. 15.1-3)
 2. To stand up against the immorality and false doctrines of the world, we need to be like a rock.
- B. We need to respect the commands of Jesus.
 1. The commandments of Jesus are the commandments of God. (Matt. 28.18; Eph. 1.22)
 2. In a day of all acceptance and inclusiveness, it takes being a rock to live by the commands of Jesus.
- C. We need to trust in the compassion of Jesus.
 1. There was a great feeling of remorse after Peter denied Jesus three times. (Mark 16.6,7; Luke 22.61; Mark 14.72)
 2. Yet Peter found forgiveness. (Luke 24.34)
 3. It can feel impossible to show forgiveness, but we can learn from the example of Jesus. (2 Cor. 2,7)

CONCLUSION: You can do the impossible, but you need to be a rock like Peter.

THE MARKS OF JESUS

How well are you known for being a Christian? As the question is sometimes asked, if you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence for a conviction?

Paul described himself as an imitator of Christ (1 Cor. 11.1). Yet there were some who challenged his position as an apostle. At the end of Galatians, Paul made this statement: “*From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus*” (Gal. 6.17).

First notice that the word “trouble” comes from two Greek words which carry the idea of “to supply a beating” [Vine]. It carries the idea of “embarrassing a person by distracting his attention” [Vine]. The Judaizing teachers were trying to embarrass and distract Paul from his mission of preaching the gospel by calling his discipleship and even apostleship into question (Gal. 1.11).

Also notice that there is proof to the legitimacy of Paul’s apostleship: “*for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus*” (Gal. 6.17). The word “bear” comes from the root Greek word “basis” meaning “a foot.” It carries the idea of supporting or holding something up. There is something on his body that Paul uses to support or hold up as proof that he is a follower of Jesus. What was on his body that served as proof?

He continues to write, “*for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus*” (Gal. 6.17). The word “marks” originates from the Greek word “stigma” and carries the idea of an identifying scar. Preaching the gospel of Christ resulted in Paul on the receiving end of great persecution. On five occasions, he received “*forty stripes minus one*” (2 Cor. 11.24). On three separate occasions, Paul was beaten with rods. (2 Cor. 11.24). Paul and Barnabas arrived in Lystra to preach the gospel when the Jews from out of town came and “*stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead*” (Acts 14.19). All the scars that were left from repeated beatings Paul held up of as identifying marks that proved himself to be a disciple of Jesus.

What distinguishes you as a follower of Christ? Can your friends, neighbors, and coworkers see the way you act (Phil. 2.15), the way you treat others (John 13.34,35), the kind of language you use (Eph. 4.29), and identify you as a disciple of Jesus? Christians are to be lights that reflect the light of Christ in the world. CLP