



Colossians 1:3-14 - What Are The Basics Of Saving Faith?

October 8, 2017

1. How do we recognize saving faith?

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.... Colossians 1:3–5a (ESV)

Faith In Christ

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (ESV)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:44 (ESV)

Love For The Saint

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35 (ESV)

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.” 1 John 3:14 (ESV)

A hope in heaven.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18 (ESV)

2. How does someone come to saving faith?

...Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you,... Colossians 1:5b-6a (ESV)

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? Romans 10:14 (ESV)

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power. 1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NIV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16 (ESV)

3. How does someone grow in saving faith?

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; Colossians 1:9–11 (ESV)

Spiritual maturity is falling more in love with Jesus and what God has done for us through him.

Spiritual wisdom and understanding is learning how to apply who we are in Jesus to every day living.

God's goal is we would live a life pleasing to God by:

1. Bearing fruit in every good work.
2. Increasing in knowledge of God.
3. Being strengthened with all power by God's glorious might.
 1. God's power gives us endurance.
 2. God's power gives us patience.
 3. God's power gives us joy.

4. How does saving faith change our struggle with sin?

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12–14 (ESV)

Jesus qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints.

Jesus delivered us from the power of sin.

We have redemption, the forgiveness of our sin.

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Colossians 1:11.** How do Christians experience God's power in they life? How does God's supernatural power manifest itself in every day living?
2. **Read Colossians 1:12-14.** What are three things God did to release us from the power of sin? How does that encourage you?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.** One of the qualities of genuine Christian faith is a supernatural level of love, especially for other Christians. What does God's supernatural love look like in our life?
4. Draw up a list of what Paul prays for in the following verses: Colossians 1:9-11; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-10. Learning from this list, how should we change the way we pray?
5. **Read Colossians 1:11 and Galatians 5:16-26.** What does Paul say it looks like to bear spiritual fruit in everyday Christian living? Which fruit is mentioned in both Colossians and Galatians?