

YOU ARE  
COMPLETE  
in  
HIM.  
COLOSSIANS 2:10, NKJV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## The Hope of the Gospel

The gospel of Christ has indeed come into the world. The light is indeed shining in the darkness, prepared and sufficient to rescue the soul of anyone among the sons of men who shows a real interest in truth. But for that rescue operation to be effected, the individual must come to the same belief system as what is consistently termed "the faith" in the holy scriptures. *The faith* not only consists of the basic truths connected with Jesus, but also of all the elements incorporated into the terms of the new covenant.

God, the Author and Perfecter of faith, therefore requires that saints "continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast" in for them to be justified in the Day of the Lord Jesus.

- ◆ **Hope of the gospel** — Tied intimately to "the faith" is the gospel. The gospel — *the evangel*, or "good news" — is naturally centered upon the story of Jesus Christ. His incarnation is a key part of that, as well as His suffering, His death, His burial, His resurrection, His appearances to the witnesses, and His ascension to glory. This gospel is then to be obeyed by those who believe its message of hope and salvation, who are willing to repent and be immersed into the name of Jesus Christ that their sins might be forgiven and that they might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through their participation in the gospel of Christ, the saints will receive the proper resurrection of the dead at Jesus' second coming, the ultimate end or "hope of the gospel." The redeemed of the Lord must not "be moved away from the hope of the gospel" in order to attain to the resurrection of the righteous.

- ◆ **Heard** — God does not save people by reaching down from heaven with a magical finger and touching them, causing them to be born again without choice. Rather, the lost become saved by hearing the whole message of the good news of Christ. "So faith comes from hearing," says God's word, "and hearing by the word concerning Christ." This statement is engendered by another question, "How shall they hear without

*The proper resurrection of the dead at Jesus' second coming is the "hope of the gospel."*

- ◆ **Proclaimed** — Because the gospel has to be heard, Jesus issued the commission to the church prior to His ascension: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). Speaking of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and the end of the Mosaic system, Jesus stated, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then *the end* shall come" (Matthew 24:14). By the time that Paul writes this epistle to the Colossian brethren, about eight years before the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, he is able to say this about the gospel, that it "was proclaimed in all creation under heaven" (Colossians 1:23). Those first century Christians took the gospel to all parts of the globe in their generation!

The apostle Paul was grateful to be a participant in spreading the good news of salvation through Christ, the blessing of the indwelling Spirit, and the hope of the resurrection from the dead. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord," said he to Timothy, "who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service" (1 Timothy 1:12). He was excited about the gospel (for which he dedicated every bit of energy in his life) as he spoke to the church in Colossae about the fact that it was proclaimed in all creation, "and of which I, Paul, was made a minister." Paul truly lived the abundant life promised by Jesus!

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