**Hope in God – Col. 1:21 – 23**

**Review:**

I hope in God because I am born again, because of my trials, because of the promises of God, because of God’s word, because Jesus Christ my high priest is alive in heaven, because the Holy Spirit encourages me

**Focal Truth: I hope in God because of the gospel of Jesus Christ**

**Today I am more hopeful than ever because of the gospel of Jesus Christ!**

***The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ***

1 Cor. 15:3 -4 – Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that he was buried, and that He was raised the third day according to the scriptures

1. **I continue to hope in the gospel because Jesus Christ has reconciled me to God while I was hostile toward God 1:21**

*Although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds*

1. He delivers believers from the power of darkness & transferred them to the kingdom of His son -1:13
2. He paid the ransom for sins – 1:14
3. He made peace through his blood on the cross & provided reconciliation with God 1:21
4. Sinners are strangers and enemies in their minds through evil deeds 1:21
5. **I continue to hope in the gospel because Jesus Christ justified me before God through his death on the cross 1:22**

*Yet he has now reconciled you in his fleshly body through his death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach*

1. Christ reconciled believers through his death on the cross

Reconciled – restore completely a relationship

1. Christ presents us to God through his death on the cross as holy, blameless

Present – to bring near in fellowship

1. Believers are justified & presented to God holy in Christ
2. Believers are justified & presented to God blameless in Christ
3. Believers are justified & presented to God beyond reproach in Christ

***This is now my position – in Christ holy, blameless, and beyond reproach***

1. **I continue to hope in the gospel firmly trusting in Jesus Christ for the rest of my life 1:23**

*If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard…*

1. Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ **is a life of faith**

Heb. 10:39 – but my righteous one shall live by faith, if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him

1. Many **hear the gospel joyfully** but **never live by faith but remain in unbelief**

Mark 4:16 – 17 – these are the ones whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy, and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary, then when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away

**Many hear the gospel never believe in the Lord of the gospel**

Religious feelings are not faith in God

Religious knowledge is not faith in God

Religious morals are not faith in God

1. Believers live by faith **firmly established** in the hope of the gospel

firmly established in the hope of the gospel

firmly – to lay the foundation

established – stable

Matt. 7:24 – therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Eph. 3:17 – so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you being rooted and grounded in love

1. Believers live by faith **settled in their confident** hope of the gospel

steadfast in the hope of the gospel

steadfast – immoveable

Acts 20:22 – 24 - now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life as dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God

1. Believers live by faith **never moving away** from the hope of the gospel

not moved away from the hope of the gospel = moved away – moved from another place

**John 8:31 – Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, if you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine**

**Things to Remember**

1. The good news of the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ builds hopefulness
2. Salvation through the cross of Christ Jesus is permanent never changing
3. Hope in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ sustains me in the trials of life
4. Believers are secure & never fall away because they live by faith in Jesus Christ

**Daily Use**

1. Ask yourself: am I hopeful today because I have believed the gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. Think often on the power of the cross of Jesus Christ that saves sinners
3. Have you fallen away? Have you had religious feelings but have never repented & put faith in Jesus Christ?
4. Come to Jesus Christ live by faith all the days of your life – hope in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ