

Steadfast: A Study of Colossians

What the Spirit of God Speaks to the Faithful

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 6, 2022

Thread: By the will of God, YOU are chosen to be steadfast.

What does the Spirit of God say to the faithful?

You are no longer slaves, WALK in freedom.

- “You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker...” Colossians 1:7 NLT
 - The news was “good” to you for a reason.

Key Text: “...May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News... I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church...and this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance...So we tell others about Christ...That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.” Colossians 1:11b – 29 NLT

“I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:1 – 3 NLT

What does the Spirit of God say to the faithful?

Is it a surprise we suffer at the side Christ?

- Paul could suffer for the church and not lose his faith.
 - “So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.” 1 John 3:13 NLT
 - "...don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering.” 1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT
- He knew it served a purpose.
- He knew that many others would find the “hidden treasures of Christ” if he would remain steadfast in his suffering.

Challenge:

- Chair Time challenge (3-5 days a week for 15 minutes or more)
- Read through Colossians for the month of November.
- Listen and exercise your faith to become more steadfast in Christ.



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& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**