

Steadfast: A Study of Colossians

What the Spirit of God Speaks to the Faithful

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 13, 2022

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

“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...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...” Colossians 1:18 – 23a NLT

What does the Spirit of God say to the faithful?

You are no longer slaves, WALK in freedom.

“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 1:24-29 NLT

What does the Spirit of God say to the faithful?

Don’t be surprised when you suffer at the side of Christ.

- Paul could suffer for the church and not lose his faith because he expected it.
 - “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

“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 1:24 – 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?

In the kingdom of God, suffering impacts the lives of many.

- Paul decided he would persevere through his suffering.
- Paul did not have to SURVIVE.
 - Most of us will not suffer life-threatening or physical harm because we follow Christ, but we will be asked to do difficult things requiring FAITH.
 - He knew it served a purpose.
 - The kingdom of God was growing and impacting people’s lives.
 - Paul’s STEADFASTNESS in suffering was an example to others and gave them courage.
 - He knew that many others would find the “hidden treasures of Christ” if he would remain steadfast.

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.



**DEVOTIONALS
& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**