

Lesson 4 - Reflection on My Salvation Experience

I. Colossians 1:3-8 - Introduction to Colossians

- A. This passage is a thanksgiving and reminder to those who have recently become Christians. In our study, it will help guide us in reflecting on our salvation experience.
- B. Words and concepts:
 - 1. **Faith** - There are basically two aspects to faith, belief and trust. Real faith demonstrates itself through action. If one has faith in God, then he will do what God asks, even if it seems a worldly way may be a more sure way. (James 2:17-20)
 - 2. **Hope** - Hope is a future expectation, not a mere wish for something that may or may not happen. It is closely related to faith. Our hope, or expectation that we live for is that we will be in Heaven. We want to be in Heaven because that is where God is, and where there will be no more death, pain, or evil. In one sense, our hope is our "goal." (Heb 11:1)
 - 3. **Love** - Love is not butterflies in the stomach. Love in the Bible is the decision to love, be kind and charitable regardless of whether one loves you back. It is ultimately demonstrated in the cross of Christ, who sacrificed himself for those who were unworthy and for many who didn't love him back. (1 Cor 13:4-7)
 - 4. **Saint** - A saint is a "holy one." To make someone holy is to "sanctify" a person. To be holy or sanctified simply means to be set apart or dedicated. Every Christian has been sanctified, or dedicated/devoted to God and no longer lives for himself, but for God. (1 Cor 1:30; 1 Cor 6:11)
 - 4. **Gospel** - The Gospel means "Good News." The Good News that you heard was the Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose from the grave, giving you a way to be saved and reconciled to God. You obeyed the Gospel and became a saved child of God. (1 Cor 15:1-4)
 - 5. **Grace** - Grace is similar to mercy. It means favor. God chose to give his favor to mankind, not because of any merit of mankind, because mankind turned away from God and deserved to be abandoned by God to Hell. It was by God's gracious and merciful choice and decision that we have the option to accept the sacrifice of God's son and be reconciled to God as his children.

II. Reflection Questions:

A. v.3 - Praying always for you

1. There are those in the body that have been and continue to pray for you. In what ways does knowing this affect you?
2. What instructions do the following passages give you on prayer?
 - a. 1 Thess 5:17 - Pray without _____
 - b. James 4:3 - Do not pray with the wrong _____
 - c. James 1:5 - One of the things we should ask for is _____
3. In your own prayers, what do you struggle with?



B. v.4 - Your faith in Christ Jesus

1. What does "faith" in Christ Jesus mean for you in your life?
2. What are some ways you can develop a deeper faith in Christ?

C. v.4 - The love which you have for all the saints

1. What are "the saints?" What does this mean?
2. " _____ is a saint." What is your reaction to this statement?
Write your name here
3. " _____ is a saint."
Write a Christian brother/sister's name
4. In what ways does this change how you feel about and view your life and your brethren?

D. v.5 - The hope laid up for you in Heaven

1. What is hope, and what hope has God given you?

2. How does this shape your life, decisions, and goals?

E. v.5 - You previously heard the word of truth, the gospel

1. What is the Gospel?

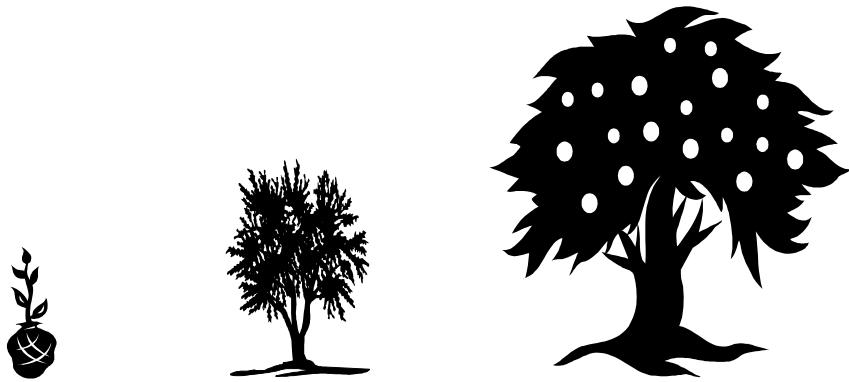
a. The _____ of Jesus for our sins

b. The _____ of Jesus

c. The _____ of Jesus from the grave

2. What did you do to obey the Gospel?

F. v.6 - It is constantly bearing fruit in you and increasing



1. What does this imagery suggest to you? In what ways is your obedience to the Gospel just a beginning?



2. Concerning Fruit. Consider this illustration:

When I go to an orchard and see numerous trees with red, round objects hanging from their branches, and I approach one of the trees, pick the fruit, smell it, then taste it, I know what kind of tree this is.

a. Read Matt 7:20

b. What does it mean to "bear fruit" as a Christian?

3. What are some ways the Gospel has already been bearing "fruit" in your life?

4. In what ways can you grow and continue to bear fruit in your walk with God?

G. Go back and look at everything you learned in this lesson. Summarize it below.

H. Make a written commitment to engage in practices that will help you to bear fruit and to grow:

<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday
1. Read John 15:1-3 slowly	1. Read John 15:1-5 slowly
2. Spend some time in prayer. Write down any reflections or thoughts between you and God here:	2. Spend some time in prayer. Write down any reflections or thoughts between you and God here:
3. Complete any part of the previous lesson that is incomplete.	

<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read John 15:6-102. What is God communicating to you? Spend time in prayer, write down your reflections and thoughts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Colossians 1:9 slowly.2. What is God's desire for you according to this passage?3. Spend time in prayer. Share your thoughts with God.

<input type="checkbox"/> Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday
1. Read Colossians 1:9-12 slowly	1. Read Colossians 1:9-14 slowly
2. What are some things you can give thanks to God for?	2. What is God's communicating to you as you read this passage?
3. Spend time in prayer. Share your thoughts with God.	3. Spend time in prayer. Share your thoughts with God.
4. Read over and begin the next lesson	4. Read over and complete the next lesson