

The church is the soil in which the Gospel takes root, grows, and bears fruit.

B. Centering Your Lives in the Message of Christ and applying it with one another. (3:16)

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How and why should the hope of glory, the Biblical one, spur us to labor hard in the Lord?
- How central was this hope of glory to Paul's life? How central should it be to ours? What does pursuit of this hope look like?
- What is the difference between pursuing our careers, hobbies, goals, and friendships while being a Christian and pursuing Jesus while we do our careers, hobbies, set our goals, and have friendships? Is there a practical difference?
- What is meant by, "*Christ is the goal, so Christ is the message.*"
- How does the call to participate in the pursuit of the promise of the earth being filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea effect you?
- What do you think of this statement, "Living in a community that practices love and forgiveness, bears with one another, is patient with one another, is the soil in which understanding in the richness and fullness of the Gospel will grow. Indeed the only one it can grow in"?
- Is *the church as the mature likeness of Jesus* what you are living for? Do you see yourself participating in this pursuit?
- How might I pray in light of this message?

Pursuing the Hope of Glory

Jerry Cisar—December 6, 2009

Text: Colossians 1:28—2:4

I. What is the Hope of Glory

A. 3 Strands of Thought:

- i. Man was crowned with glory at creation, but had fallen.
- ii. The Tabernacle/Temple was a place of glory.
- iii. Capture Wisdom and you'll capture **wealth** and **glory**.

B. How central was this hope of glory to Paul's life? How central should it be to ours?

II. How Far Reaching is the Hope of Glory?

A. Water, water everywhere!

- i. Isaiah 11:1, 9
- ii. Habakkuk 2:13-14

The only labor that will survive is labor toward the hope of glory!

B. Ezekiel and the Glorious Waters (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

➤ Ephesians 4:13

➤ Galatians 4:19

C. The fulfillment of this promise is the Gospel going forth into the world transforming people into the image of Christ.

ii. Christ is the goal, so Christ is the message.

i. 1:6, 23 Did Paul have Ezekiel's vision in mind?

ii. Paul saw himself in the long line of history of what God was doing in the world.

C. **Admonishing:** setting someone's mind in proper order.

D. **Teaching:** positive teaching of the truth.

III. How did Paul Pursue the Hope of Glory?

A. 1:28 The proclamation and application of Jesus Christ.

i. **Him we Proclaim** (ESV)

ii. YLT *“Whom we proclaim, warning **every man**, and teaching **every man**, in **all** wisdom, that we may present **every man** perfect in Christ Jesus...”*

iii. Paul saw his ministry of the Gospel to the Gentiles as the fulfillment of the hope of glory!

B. “that we may present everyone **mature** in Christ...” (ESV)

i. Lexicon: *having reached its end, finished, complete, fully developed.*

a) Jesus Christ is the goal of Christian maturity.

➤ Col. 1:27

IV. How do We Participate in the Pursuit of the Hope of Glory?

We too should see our lives in this long line of promise and fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

A. Being Knit Together in Love and Understanding of the Gospel (2:1-3)

i. Our unity with one another and unity in understanding of the Gospel grow simultaneously together.

ii. Colossians 3:12-15