

PILLARS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Colossians 1:3-8

Introduction: For so many, Thanksgiving seems to be the only time of the year that thoughts turn to "reasons to be thankful." However for Christians, every day, every moment there are countless reasons to be thankful. Take a moment right now, pause and think, "what do I have to be thankful for right now?" Of all the people who would NOT have reasons to be thankful it would be the Apostle Paul for he spent so much of his life in prison cells that go beyond human understanding in their harshness and disgust, yet Paul is one of the most encouraging men of the Bible. He could always find reason to be thankful, no matter what his circumstances were. Christians, there are some great pillars in our lives that support and hold us together.

I. TWO GREAT PILLARS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (1 John 3:23)

1. There is the great pillar of our FAITH.
 - It is not ordinary faith needed in everyday life circumstance.
 - It is not a faith to grasp some great idea or dream.
 - It is not faith in one's self.
 - It IS faith in a particular person - JESUS CHRIST.
 - It is Jesus who brings us to God.
 - It is Jesus who mediates for us before God.
 - Christians belong to Jesus Christ.
 - It is Jesus who assures Christians/believers of God's presence, power, acceptance, etc.
 - By faith in Jesus Christ, believers become a real part of Jesus Christ.
 - Compare it to living within a sphere and Jesus is that sphere.

2. There is the great pillar of LOVE.
 - It is not a "natural" kind of love like people have for one another.
 - It is a love founded/based upon Jesus Christ and His life lived for others.
 - It is a love that equals a total commitment to Jesus Christ.
 - It is a love that is stirred by the Holy Spirit, thus a supernatural love, God's kind of love.
 - Only Christians/believers have and share this special kind of love for one another.
 - This supernatural kind of love has no place for Church divisions, cliques, grumbling, envy, criticism, arguments, strife, hard feelings, and the like.

3. It is utterly impossible to have a successful Christian life without faith and love in Jesus Christ.

4. It is utterly impossible to live as God wants without faith in Jesus Christ and love to one's Christian brothers and sisters.

II. ONE BASIS FOR THESE TWO GREAT PILLARS IS HOPE

1. It is HOPE that gives the believer in Jesus Christ:
 - expectation of resurrection and a new body.
 - the Lord's return and being with Him forever.
 - entering heaven and living there forever.
 - receiving the inheritance promised for being one of God's children.

III. ANOTHER BASIS FOR THESE TWO GREAT PILLARS IS THE GOSPEL

(The only lasting hope offered to mankind is found in the Gospel)

1. The Gospel presents the TRUTH.
2. The Gospel is for the individual.
3. The Gospel is for the entire world through all ages.
 - It is NOT for a particular people.
 - It is not for a particular religion/denomination.
 - It is not for a particular Church.
 - It is not for a particular social class of people.
 - It is not for a particular intelligence level.
4. The Gospel produces results (fruit):
 - It produces fruit of the Holy Spirit - (*Galatians 2:22-23*)
 - It produces converts - believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - It produces pure and clean lives in those who follow it closely.
5. The Gospel comes by hearing through the ears to the heart.
6. The Gospel is the message of God's Grace.
 - There is no greater message than the Gospel
7. The Gospel is given by people, NOT angels, people like US.
8. The Gospel results in love - generated by the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians, we are people of faith in Jesus Christ and love for one the Lord Jesus and for one another.
2. Christians, our lives are built upon the hope of the truths the Gospel reveals.
3. Christians, what would your lives be like if it were not for your faith in Jesus and love for Him and His Church (one another)?