

A Reader's Guide to Discipleship©: Readings in the New Testament

Strauss 2009

The sufficiency of the scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness
(II Tim 3:16)

Colossians: Experiencing Christ is the essence of the Christian experience

I. Our hope in Christ 1:3-2:3

- A. Celebrating the foundation of true faith 1:3-8
- B. Anticipating the full experience of faith as we grow on this foundation 1:9-11
- C. This experience should be anticipated because we are completed in Christ, the living saviour. 1:12-2:3

II. Requirements for experiencing this hope 2:4-4:1

- A. Our lives must revolve around Christ alone 2:4-19
 - 1. empty, deceitful traditions of men add nothing to our completeness in Christ 2:4-10
 - 2. identification with Christ accomplishes what the law of God cannot 2:11-15
 - 3. prideful, mystical rituals stymie growth which comes from God alone 2:16-19
- B. We must set aside our preoccupation with man-centred strategies for self-improvement and set our mind fully on Christ 2:20-3:4
- C. We are called to a higher standard of living 3:5-11
 - 1. love for God above self 3:5-7
 - 2. love for others above self 3:8-11
- D. And we must order our lives according to three key principles of Jesus 3:12-17
 - 1. the example of Christ love 3:12-14
 - 2. the peace of God 3:15
 - 3. the Word of God 3:16-17
- E. We must be careful to apply this in real life at home (the hub of the church experience at that time) 3:18-4:1

III. Closing concerns

- A. Pray, live wisely, and speak graciously 4:2-6
- B. Support for fellow workers in the faith 4:7-14
- C. Sister church in Loadicea 4:15-18