

## Not shifting from the hope of the gospel

**Colossians 1:15-23**

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**Colossians 1:15–20 (ESV)** — **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**Colossians 1:21–23 (ESV)** — **21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**Acts 9:20–31 (ESV)** — **20** And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ... **23** When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, **24** but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, **25** but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. ... **29** And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. **30** And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

**Acts 11:25–26 (ESV)** — **25** So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, **26** and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

**Acts 19:21–23 (ESV)** — **21** Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I **must also see Rome.**” **22** And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. **23** About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.

**Acts 19:26–30 (ESV)** — **26** And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. **27** And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess

Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.” **28** When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” **29** So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s companions in travel. **30** But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him.

**2 Corinthians 1:8–10 (ESV)** — **8** For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. **9** Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. **10** He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

**Psalms 62 (ESV)** — To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. **1** For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. **2** He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. **3** How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? **4** They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah **5** For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. **6** He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. **7** On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. **8** Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah **9** Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. **10** Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them. **11** Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, **12** and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

**Romans 8:24 (ESV)** — **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

**Acts 2:36 (ESV)** — **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

**1 John 4:15 (ESV)** — **15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

### **Questions:**

- What is your prison?
  - Who or what are you relying upon for hope?
  - What is your Rome?
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