

## 2020 Vision - Part 1

### Hope

01/05/2020

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*Colossians 1 (NIV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people - the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.*

### 3 Truths we can hope in:

1st) We have the hope of **RELATIONSHIP**.

*Colossians 1:2 (NIV) To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

*Colossians 1:9 (NIV) For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.*

- They legitimately cared

*1 Thess. 5:11 (NIV) Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

*Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

- Asking these personal questions outside the context of an intimate, trusting relationship most often leads to manipulation and legalistic, moral policing of another's behavior rather than to a deeper walk with Jesus.
- The attempt at accountability, although important, was awkward and contrived.
- Men tend to approach life as a formula.
- Written questions never work
- Accountability that is not grace-centered and that is done outside the context of genuine, authentic community will always seek to serve the legalistic Pharisee in us all.
- True accountability is a by-product of genuine, transparent community and was never intended to be "stand-alone".
- These conversations happen naturally - they're God driven
- We don't believe God loves us exactly as we are.

### 3 Relational questions:

Question #1: What has shaken your **FOUNDATION**?

- God uses disappointment to help us grow - if we allow it.

*Paul David Tripp - "How is your present disappointment, discouragement, or grief a window on what has actually captured your heart?"*

*Col. 1:9b-10 (NIV) We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,*

Question #2: Do you ever feel **FORGOTTEN**?

*Col. 1:11-12 (NIV) being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.*

- God can do big things in little places

QUESTION #3: Is there a need in your life for **FORGIVENESS**?

*Col. 1:14 (NIV) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

- Guilty people make others feel guilty

2nd) We have the hope of **HEAVEN**.

*Colossians 1:5 (NIV) the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel*

- NDEs - near-death experiences
- There is a universal hunger for Heaven

*John 14:1-6 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going." "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*

### 3 Promises of Heaven:

A) Heaven is a **PHYSICAL** place.

*John 14:1 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home."*

B) Heaven is a **PREPARED** place.

*John 14:2b (NLT) I am going to prepare a place for you*

*1 Cor. 2:9 (NKJV) Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him..*

C) Heaven has a **MAP**.

*John 14:4-6 (NLT) And you know the way to where I am going." "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*

*Rev. 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

3rd) We have the hope of **GRACE**.

*Colossians 1:6b (NIV) In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.*

- It is not the badness that we know we have which keeps us from God, but rather the goodness that we think we have.

*Col. 1:13 (NIV) For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*

- Fear
- Shame
- Guilt
- Judgment and punishment is the source of fear, shame, and guilt.
- We need to run to Jesus
- We need to let him love us just as we are - not as we should be because we'll never be as we should be

*1 John 4:18-19 (NIV) There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.*