HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

February 1, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15–23; Romans 8; 1 Peter 1:6–7; Philippians 2:12–15; Ephesians 3:14–21

KEY POINTS

- The hope of the gospel is rooted in who Christ is and what He has already accomplished.
- Reconciliation with God is accomplished by Christ and not sustained by human effort.
- Biblical tensions lead to humility. Apparent contradictions in Scripture (sovereignty vs. responsibility, assurance vs. warnings) aren't errors but invitations to humble dependence on God.
- Scripture holds grace and responsibility together without turning faith into a performance.
- Jesus must be first in everything. When Christ isn't first, we typically put ourselves first, even in seemingly good actions.
- God’s saving work comes first and our obedience flows from what He has already done.
- We are saved by grace alone, yet Scripture calls us to continue in faith and work out our salvation.
- Warnings in Scripture are meant to guard believers, not to rob them of assurance.
- Growth and endurance flow from God’s work within us, even through trials and suffering.
- Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

DISCUSSION

- In Colossians 1:15-23, Paul says we are holy and blameless and beyond reproach, but then adds, if indeed you continue in the faith. How do you understand this tension? Does it make you feel secure or anxious about your salvation? How does understanding this as remaining in Christ shape the way you hear this passage?
- “The more we recognize God's grace is sufficient, the more we realize how much we need it.” Have you experienced this paradox in your own life? Share an example.
- Romans 8 declares there is no condemnation for those in Christ and that nothing can separate us from God’s love. How does this truth reshape the way you respond to mistakes, failures, or ongoing struggles?
- In what areas of your life have you struggled to put Jesus first? What typically takes His place?
- When the enemy brings shame after you fall into sin, how do you typically respond? What is the gospel-shaped response to condemnation, and how does that differ from self-punishment or denial?
- Pastor Tony explained “work out your salvation” as to bring into expression what God has already worked in you. What has God already worked in you that needs to be expressed more fully?