

“Sharing the joy of living” Part 4

Back to Faith--The Nuts and Bolts

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Colossians 1:27-29

Colossia, a place where there was a mixture of Judaism and Gnosticism and other pagan religions. There were great emphasis on the legalistic ceremonialism emphasis on circumcision and taboos in matters of food and drink. Colossia was in trouble. So Paul wrote to them to deal with these problems. He wanted to make sure that the gospel of Jesus was attractive. He praised the faithful believers there of whom unsuccessfully Satan was trying to influence.

Colossians 1:24-29:

²⁴ I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. ²⁵ God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. ²⁶ This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. ²⁷ For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

²⁸ So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect^{ed} in their relationship to Christ. ²⁹ That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

We are to share Jesus. Share his teaching with wisdom. With all the wisdom God has given us. Make sure that you present Christ. People must see Jesus in you.

As we are planning Back to Faith, I have one sobering question, “Is Christ living in you?”

We are asked by Jesus to

BE HIS DISCIPLES

BE HIS WITNESSES

BE HIS LOVERS

We want to expose the gospel and not impose the gospel

How do we expose the gospel? We must first have a genuine relationship with God.

Remember the text I shared a few weeks ago

1 Thessalonians 2:8 **“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”**

CONGREGATION PARTICIPATION

With that in mind, how can we attract our missing members back to fellowship with us? First, why did they leave?

Why did they leave?

How can we bring them back?

What programs can we put in place?

What about fellowship meals regularly?

What about monthly Saturday night socials

What about each family taking people who for dinner on Sabbath

Matthew 28:18-20: ¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, ^b baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”