****

**Sermon: *“God’s Work in God’s People: A Vibrant Faith”***

**Scripture: Colossians 1:3-8**

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, September 8, 2019

**Introduction:**

Any offer of a new and better hope other than faith in Christ is nothing but ancient heresy.

**Four elements of vibrant faith:**

1. **An Authentic Faith (v. 3-5)**

*Scripture: Hebrews 11:1; 12:2*

* **An authentic faith enjoys inherent blessings:** Through faith in Christ, we receive all the benefits of God as our Father.
* **An authentic faith faces imminent dangers:** Faith in Christ will face certain attack, but we rest securely and confidently in the author and finisher of our faith.
1. **An Evident Faith (v. 4, 8)**

Faith and love ALWAYS go together, for authentic faith works through love.

*Scripture: Galatians 5:6; 1 John 4:7, 12*

1. **A Well-Founded Faith (v. 5-7)**
* Faith is rooted in established truth.

*Scripture: John 17:17*

* Faith comes by hearing the exclusive Gospel.

*Scripture: Romans 10:12*

**The All: 4-1 Challenge:**

**Challenge 1:** **Read or listen to all 4 chapters** of Colossians at least 1x/week.

**Challenge 2:** **Memorize 1 chapter** of Colossians by end of study.

\*Encourage another to join you.

\*Share growth and progress in accountability, ABF, small group, etc.

1. **A Productive Faith (v. 6)**

*Scripture: Titus 2:11-14*

The power of the Gospel: It saves for eternity and transforms progressively.

**Conclusion:**

* One of the oldest heresies is Jesus plus anything.
* Faith in Christ is all you need for life and eternity.

**Questions to Consider:**

* 1. What is faith? How would you explain “faith” to an unbeliever?
	2. What specifically does it mean to have “faith in Christ”?
	3. What hope is “laid up in heaven for the believer? How does this hope bring joy and peace in this life?
	4. Can you simply and clearly explain the “word of truth, the gospel”?
	5. In what ways did the gospel bear fruit and increase “in the whole world?”
	6. What makes someone a “faithful minister of Christ”?