

Characteristics of Faithful Brethren

Colossians 1:1-12

Introduction:

- I. We have a great respect for dedicated people.
 - a. The Supreme Sacrifice – war veterans who gave their lives.
 - b. We admire people who achieve in spite of handicaps.
 - c. In marriage we celebrate with those who have “golden wedding” anniversaries.
- II. God also has appreciation for dedicated people (Revelation 2:10).
- III. Are we the committed, dedicated people God wants us to be?
- IV. The people at Colossae were faithful people (Colossians 1:2) because of 1)their faith in Christ, 2)their love for the saints, and 3)their hope of heaven.
- V. What were the characteristics of these faithful brethren?
- VI. These we may use to test our own faithfulness.

Discussion:

- I. They were saints (2).
 - a. This is an Old Testament concept.
 - i. God’s people were different. That is why the prophets demanded so much of them.
 - b. They have been delivered out of the power of darkness (12).
 - c. The necessity of sanctification (Hebrews 12:14).
 - d. Implies a destruction in these people and the world (Colossians 3:5ff).
 - e. Life that is unbecoming to a saint (Ephesians 5:3).
- II. They Had a Quest for Knowledge (9).
 - a. How do we learn God’s will for us?
 - b. How do we come to understand spiritual things? (Ephesians 3:1-5).
 - c. Treasures of wisdom are hidden in Christ (Colossians 2:1-3).
- III. They walk worthily of the Lord (10).
 - a. Please Him
 - i. Enoch pleased God (Hebrews 11:5).
 - ii. We are to walk in Christ (Colossians 2:6).
 - iii. Some things we can do to please him (Colossians 3:18-25).
 - b. Bear Fruit
 - i. Lord’s people are to be productive spiritually.
 - ii. Jesus’ illustration (John 15:1-8).
 - iii. “In every good work.”
 - c. We must always increase.
- IV. They are steadfast (11).
 - a. They have a knowledge of God that results in patience and longsuffering.
 - b. Patience is steadfastness!
 - i. Call to steadfastness (Colossians 1:23; 2:7).
 - ii. Challenge of false teaching (2:4-5).
 - c. Longsuffering in dealing with problems and people.
 - d. Suffer with joy:
 - i. Christians do not endure hardships with Stoic acceptance. We have the joy of a victory.
- V. They are thankful (12).
 - a. Paul gave thanks (Colossians 1:3).
 - b. Give thanks unto the father (12).
 - c. Abound in thanksgiving (2:6).
 - d. Be thankful (3:15).
 - e. Give thanks to God through Christ (3:17).
 - f. Give thanks in prayer (4:2).

Conclusion:

- I. Examine yourself (II Corinthians 13:5). Here is one test you can run on yourself!