



Colossians – Part 3
Four Tests of a True Christian

New Horizon Church 10-17-2021 Pastor John Raymond

1. We are sharing in his _____.

Colossians 1:23b-24 (NIV), “²³This is the **gospel** that you heard and that has been **proclaimed** to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what **I am suffering for you**, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.”

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV), “¹⁰ Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people **insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.** ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward in heaven**, for in the same way they **persecuted the prophets** who were before you.”

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT), “¹² Dear friends, **don’t be surprised at the fiery trials** you are going through, as if something **strange** were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, **be very glad** – for these trials **make you partners with Christ in his suffering**, so that you will have the **wonderful joy** of seeing **his glory** when it is revealed to all the world.”

1 Peter 2:20-21 (NLT), “²⁰ Of course, you get **no credit** for being patient if you are beaten **for doing wrong**. But if you **suffer for doing good** and endure it patiently, God is **pleased** with you. ²¹ For God called you to do good, **even if it means suffering**, just as **Christ suffered for you**. He is your example, and **you must follow in his steps.**”

2. We are ministers of the _____.

Colossians 1:25-27 (NIV), “²⁵ I have become its servant by the **commission God gave me** to present to you the word of God in its fullness – ²⁶ the **mystery** that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is **now disclosed to the Lord’s people.** ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the **Gentiles the glorious riches** of this **mystery**, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”

Matthew 13:10-11 (NASB), “¹⁰ And the disciples came up and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in **parables?**’ ¹¹ And Jesus answered them, ‘**To you** it has been granted to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted.’”

1 Timothy 3:9-10 (NLT), “⁹ They must be **committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed** and must live with a **clear conscience.** ¹⁰ Before they are appointed as deacons, **let them be closely examined.** If they pass the test, **then let them serve as deacons.**”

Acts 20:24 (NLT), “**But my life is worth nothing** to me unless I **use it** for finishing the work **assigned** me by the Lord Jesus – the work of **telling others the Good News** about the wonderful grace of God.”

3. We are to grow in what we _____.

Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV), “²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing (**warning**) and teaching everyone with all wisdom **so that** we may present everyone **fully mature** in Christ. ²⁹ **To this end I strenuously contend** with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.”

Colossians 2:1-3 (NIV), “I want you to know **how hard I am contending for you** and for those at **Laodicea**, and for all who have not met me personally. ² My goal is that they may be **encouraged** in heart and united in **love, so that** they may have the **full riches of complete understanding, in order that** they may know the **mystery** of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are **hidden** all the treasures of **wisdom and knowledge.**”

Revelation 3:15-17 (NIV), “¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are **neither cold nor hot.** I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are **lukewarm** – neither hot nor cold – I am about to **spit you out of my mouth.** ¹⁷ You say, ‘I am **rich**; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are **wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.**”

4. We are standing firm in our _____.

Colossians 2:4-5 (NIV), “⁴ I tell you this **so that** no one may **deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.** ⁵ For though I am absent from you in body, I am **present with you in spirit and delight** to see how **disciplined you are** and how **firm your faith in Christ is.**”

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB), “Be on the alert, **stand firm in the faith**, act like men, be strong.”

3 John 4 (NLT), “I could have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children are following the **truth.**”