

Colossians 1:1-5
Pastor Jesse O'Dorisio
January 4, 2006

<https://livingwaterstabernacle.com/sermons/01-04-06-colossians-11-5/>

I appreciate that brother that we are looking for His coming. I was with a man this week and he's a Christian man, and a sweet guy and somehow, we were in conversation, and I mentioned about the coming of the Lord, and he said to me well you know some of these guys that are preaching that we're in the end times somewhat bothers me. And I thought what are you talking about? You know, to myself and I wanted to find out what he was talking about. And he says well, you know I think there's a resurgence and different things, and I said well I believe that God does bless America. I think there's some wonderful things moving through this country, but at the same time I think there's a great form of godliness that denies the power moving through this country as well too. And I said do you believe that Paul was a man of God, and he kind of smiled at me and he knew. And I said what do you think that he might have really known the Lord maybe as well as anybody? He said yeah, I do believe that, and I said well did you know that he wanted to get back to Jerusalem because he thought the Lord was coming? He said really. I said yeah really, and I said now that was way back then. He said well, I think the Lord's thousands of years off, and I said well brother, I said He may be, but I want to live as if He's coming today. That's how we live, amen, and I said, and He might, and then He might stay away a thousand or two years but even though again we say my life's but a vapor and it's just going to be a moment before I'm going to be with Him anyway. And He said to those that are loving, and looking, and longing for My appearing I am going to appear that second time too. Hallelujah, and there's a reward for them and it's going to be a wondrous reward, so I'm thankful for what He's convicted us to. So, thank You Jesus.

01:50

Lord willing this evening we're going to get into the book of Colossians. I wanted to give us a quick background on this wonderful letter to this church that Paul had written here, and this was to the city of Colosse. And that was a city that was within the Roman empire which we know today as Turkey. And the word Colosse has a twofold meaning, it means correction which I'm sure most of you know, but it also means monstrosity. And I really, in studying this out, I think it's so fitting that these two words are in this definition of Colossae how the word of God in Paul's letter is full of correction as we'll see, but it's correction in love. See, there's a difference, it's in edification, it's in exhortation, and you're only going to win people, and convince people, and encourage people in the love of God. It needs to be truth in love. You leave out love, and you go to the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians. Whether you have faith to move mountains, whether you have tongue of men and angels that you can speak awful eloquent, whether you give everything you have to the poor, I don't care what goodness or faith you have. Without love it's profitless. So do remember that by the grace of God in our lives.

03:25

So, the first one again is the correction. The next one you have to realize that when Paul wrote this it was about sixty-two to sixty-four A.D., yet within ten years this monstrosity happened. Monstrosity means two headed, it means a house divided, and what happened the city of Colossae at this time was there was this wonderful church and many believers in this church that were seeing the deep things of God, they received the mystery of Christ that Paul had to get dispensation to give them, but yet at the same time there was a large insurgence of many different beliefs and religions and man's philosophy that was going on at that time, and it somewhat overtook that city, and within ten years of Paul writing this letter, this city was totally destroyed by an earthquake, and I really thought how fitting. A house divided against itself does fall, doesn't it? 04:26

Yes, it does, remember that in your own home, but Paul never personally spoke or met these Colossians, he never met these people. He came to know them through a wonderful apostle name of Epaphras who actually founded the church, but so wonderfully Epaphras as well as the church submitted it to God's will, and to God's word and that church followed Paul as he followed Christ. And this letter to the Colossians was written from the same place as the letters of the Ephesians, the Philippians, and Philemon it was written in the Roman jail; can you imagine that? Again, the joy book of the bible, all these wonderful letters of love, and again as we study on Sunday, that day, this is Paul's day; this is Paul's day. The Lord had to get Paul in that position in that dungeon in that solitude in order to open up the heart and really give him the dispensation of what the Lord in the mystery of Christ was to be to these people. So again, when the Lord presses you out of measure, be ready for the wonder that He might be giving you in your life, hallelujah. But again, the Holy Spirit gave him the words of love at this time. 05:47

Kind of summarized the four chapters here. Chapter one we're going to read about Christ's person, and his high calling, and his indwelling. Chapter two is the warning against error, false teachings, man's philosophy. Chapter three will be the believer's union with Christ, and chapter four is true Christian fellowship in brotherly love. The Lord willing let's get into the first chapter here in verse one. It says Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother. It's very plain, and it's very clear as he starts this out. Paul the apostle, he was the one that was sent forth, and if you're ever sent forth to do anything that's ever going to be of profit it's going to be by Jesus Christ and remember that hallelujah. It was the will of God, it was the will of God that sent Paul, it's the will of God that it will put up what God wants or put down what God wants. Whatever God wants to anoint, or lift up, or take down. everything is in its place. Everything is held together. Everything that even consists is of Jesus Christ. Do you understand that? At this meeting that's your life, that's your livelihood, and as I was speaking again with a couple people this week let Christ become your lifestyle. Not here just on a Wednesday night, not here just on Sundays or Fridays, or whenever it is, let Him be throughout your whole life; it'll change you, it'll bring it all together and that will be the walk of the walk in the Spirit that the Lord wants for each one of His children. 07:31

But in this may we always as Paul is encouraging us to be in God's will to know when we are called to get out the word. And that's the important thing, is always ready to have an answer, but allowing the Holy Spirit to give us utterance. There's wisdom in that. There's been times in my life I know that I've went in my own strength. Have you been there before? I have and those words fell flat, but when you go in the power of His might, when you go in the utterance of the Holy Spirit I'm going to tell you, talk about power. Power beyond. I was talking to a man again this week. It was so wonderful him seeing the things of God really getting excited about the things of God over the last four or five months. The Lord has pressed him out of measure to get him in front of Him to be still and to know Him. He said well I've come to a point, you know I'm really understanding this, I'm seeing it, but I really want it to come in me. 08:32

Holy Spirit, you need the Holy Spirit. You're missing power my friend, and the Holy Spirit is the only thing that's going to give that power in your life. He has been with you, and He shall be in you. Hallelujah. And now He's the power of His might that He wants us to have in here, and that's how we can be sent to preach God's word is in the power of His might. But let's live Thy will be done, not my will be done, but Thy will be done, how's that sound, and then we'll get the full reward praise God. I remember Brother Hill saying many times about some of the different preachers he had met throughout his life, and there's a lot of preachers out there. As I was teasing you, you're all just wonderful, but at the first, when the Lord called me to preach, I didn't realize we had thirty or forty preachers, that never mind that at different comments and suggestions that you get. But I remember Brother Hill saying so many times that the ones that would say, oh Brother Hill, I saw the big GP in the sky. Oh, you did, did you. Yeah, it means go preach, and Brother said no, you didn't really look hard enough, it said go pray. I don't know if you remember that, but I remember that pretty well, and remembered a move at his command. And even as you're moving as I again was visiting with a man this week. You're still and knowing that He's God. Listen to that voice, He's there all the time for you, and the voice is the word of God. He that aligns itself with it. But he also recognized his cold neighbor here in this first verse, and I appreciate that about Paul. He encourages Timothy, he never takes the self-glory, but he admits love in edifying everywhere that he went, and I appreciate him thinking of his younger brother in the Lord. 10:22

Verse two. To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, this is very important here, and I want you to notice there is a difference. He's saluting and saying to the saints, and faithful brethren. Well, saints are saints, and faithful brethren are saints, but saints aren't necessarily faithful brethren. Do you see the difference that he's saying here? I hope you understand this, and I hope you see though that he's not excluding anyone out, that he is always counted it the way it is. Paul didn't beat around the bush with people. As Christians we aren't to beat around the bush with people. By the grace of God we stand in defense of the gospel, by the grace of God we're not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Let your testimony be known to man. By the grace of God stand up, stand and withstand for Jesus Christ, what a privilege. 11:33

But again, Paul is writing to both, and all were holy in standing. Anyone born again is holy, but some were living faithful lives well pleasing to God. And again, I was thinking here, what is faithful; what is faithful? It's those that are full of faith, full of faith. How do we get faith? Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. So, it must be the ones that are full of hearing, and hearing by the word of God is how we become faithful, praise Him. And these were the corrected ones. I'd like you to turn with me if you would real quick to Hebrews Chapter Twelve, Verse Six, and remember the correction the chastened ones. For whom the Lord loves, He chastens, and He scourges every son whom He receives. You're being challenged, thank God, you're a son. Just like you've heard me say before, Lord, I appreciate You loving me so, but can You go love up on somebody else for a while? But verse seven says if he endures. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as sons. 12:55

See, if you neglect it you reject it you don't want the sufferings. If you suffer with Him, you're going to reign with Him. Huh, oh hallelujah. That's what by the grace of God we're about here. We're joint heirs by the grace of God if we will suffer together with Him. But if ye enduring chastening, God deals with you as sons, for what son is he whom the Father chastens not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave them reverence, shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of the spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but He for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. And praise God this verse, this chapter, this whole letter is encouraging us to accept the chastening and grow. To accept the chastening and grow, it's a hard thing. 14:17

Let me tell you something, I know a lot of Christians that really don't want to go on, and they seem to be living some pretty nice lives; it seems pretty comfortable. Do you want God's best? Yeah, I don't want to get bogged down in the suffering, I don't want to get bogged down in the chastening, but you know what, you're going to have to face it, it's going to be there. Whom He loves He chastens, and He loves His children, and we're getting a dispensation in this place. We're getting a revelation of the mystery of Christ. I was talking to a brother again this week, and it was so precious to me the encouragement that he gave me. He said you know brother; we really are in the days of Paul again where all in Asia had forsaken him. They didn't want to hear any more about his dispensation. They didn't want to hear anything about the mystery of Christ. Where is Paul in the churches today, where is he, where is this preached? I'm back to facts like we're saying about Michael Jordan, or Tiger Woods, or whatever, they're the best. I'm not going to argue with you on that one, I don't think many people would, but this is fact. We're talking the mystery of Christ; we're talking the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We're talking about an out resurrection to be prepared to meet the Lord in the air, this is what this thing is about. 15:37

Where is that preached anymore? Do you see what I'm saying? Do you see where the word of God is getting us to. As that man said, you know, I don't like to hear about the end times. Sure, you don't like to hear about the end times because you're not ready. It would scare me too if I wasn't ready to meet Him in the air. Now I don't say that boldly as I've attained something, but by grace I trust Him that He's going to give me the faith that He's going to be the author and the finisher of my faith brothers and sisters, and you too that we're going to be prepared to meet Him when He comes. And that's going to be a joyous time, and it's just like I was telling him again, and you've heard me say this before, it's not because this old world is so junky even though times I think it is kind of junky, and a lot of the people in it are pretty junky anymore, but you know what, it's like if I was going to marry some lady, and the only reason she wanted to marry me was to get her out of her bad house because she didn't like her parents. Now, what kind of a marriage would that be? Wouldn't be much of a marriage, would it? 16:38

I want the bride that's going to love to be with me. I want the kind of bride that's going to be like a Rebecca that has that precious home life, that loved her family, that really wanted to be with her family and say goodbye to them and all those different things, but no, you've got to go now. And she went because she loved the message of Eliezer that was telling her about this wonderful man that she was going to go to marry. Can you imagine that? That's what you're being called into tonight. That's what we're being called into this place is to come in love and expectation of the wonder that that He's going to make known to all that He has loved us. That's got me sold, I love that. I love that it hadn't entered into my mind, my heart, my thoughts what God has prepared for me because by His grace I love Him. How's that? That's pretty good stuff, I love it, thank You Jesus, that's my Lord, praise His name. 17:36

But notice here, it goes on in the second verse. It says, grace *be* unto you, and peace. That's very important; it's incredible because without grace you will never have peace, and grace will always bring peace. I was visiting with a brother this evening before the service here, and I said I appreciated this one little movie I saw recently, and I said it encouraged me. One of the things that encouraged me is one of the symbolisms or imageries, or things that it was trying to state in the movie was it can never be taken away from you. And what it was is this person was put on a throne, and it was a vision of heaven, and it can never be taken away. And I said that thrilled to think that this man saw eternal security that once saved, you are saved, that nothing can separate you from the love of God. See, the reason that encourages me is because that life's got to change. You know why that life has got to change? Because it saw that grace, you see what I'm saying? If you're caught into legality, if you think that you can lose your salvation, You can't grow from there. 18:50

It's not going to happen because the only way we can grow is by the grace of God. The word of God tells us that we grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Without grace it's never going to happen. And if I'm always worried about losing my salvation I'm not living in freedom, there's no liberty for me, and I'm not living

in grace, I'm living in fear. I'm living in something that I think I need to keep. Well, that's the opposite of what grace is. Grace is a free gift that was given, it's not something given and taken back, it's yours. Do you see the difference? And that's what grace is to our lives. By that acknowledgement that gives me hope in my life, as well as the life of a Christian I meet, at least there's a chance of that thing really growing up into everything in Christ Jesus, and that again encourages me. But yet again this grace is the sufficiency for the day of trial, and how precious again that this book; this letter is about correction, and we do need the sufficiency for that day of trial, and it's often going to hurt as we read there about how it doesn't seem joyous at the time, but His grace is sufficient to bring the peace and grace that is brought by the lord Jesus Christ is always the lasting and true, and sufficient grace that gives us peace. Isn't that wonderful? Oh, I love our Lord praise His name. 20:19

Verse three. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ praying always for you. And I appreciate this, Paul was a prayer warrior. Let that be an encouragement to us. The greatest and most powerful tool we that we really have in the word of God is prayer. Do you believe that? I hope you do, prayer changes things. Prayer, I'll tell you, the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much I'm telling you. The Lord loves to hear our petitions to Him. He wants us to come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain that mercy, to get that grace because we're a needy people. That's what a prayer is, it's a need and we all have needs. I'm not talking about wants, sure we have wants and desires, but I'm talking about the need, I'm talking about the need for more knowledge to get to know Him better. I'm talking about the need for more love so I can get to love you all better. You understand that. See, it's brotherly love that's going to win it all, it's the love match that's going to bring us through that finish line honey; that's exactly what it is. We could have all the head knowledge we wanted, but if it's not in love and effectually working in our life it's going to be profitless to us. The love I'm going to tell you we're going to talk about love faith, it's love by the grace of God. 21:45

But he had that wonderful prayer going for these brothers and sisters in Christ of like faith, and how just the thought of them, and I think you heard me mention it Sunday, it's one of the things that was so encouraging about reading this, and listening to the Lord speak to me on this was you know how we talk about those coals, we need to be together. That's the much the more as the day is approaching. You know get the fellowship, we need to be around each other, it's encouraging. But at the same time, I was thinking about Jerry and Arlene, and I had breakfast with Bill and Coleen Slater the other day, and that was sweet before they went back home. It's just wonderful the love of God in those lives, and how on fire they are for the things of God. And you know what it is, it's the remembrance, it's the prayer. It puts us in unity of the spirit even though we're miles away. Do you believe that, I do? I do, and this is exactly what the Apostle Paul was getting right here, he was on fire for the lord because of the love of these saints because of the faith, because of the spiritual love, the love in the Spirit that we're going to read about this, this encouraged Paul, and by the grace of God this needs to encourage us. I hope that we wouldn't just sit by when we hear of others being anointed and encouraged in the word

of God that it wouldn't move us. I mean it, that we would thrill, I'd love to hear from Brother Hawkins, I love to hear from Brother Smith when they call and they say you know brother, we're just doing wonderful out here. Brother Smith, you know sometimes he calls, and he'll just say well, you know we're kind of out here all by ourselves in the sticks, but the Lord's with us, and He's good and He's got me thinking of you today. Isn't that awesome? That's the love that won't let us go, hallelujah that we can share. And that's again such an encouragement for such a man of faith, and that's again, is by the grace of God.

23:45

But now, going into the next four verses. Paul's going to commend them for five great things in their lives, and obviously speaks of grace, and they're all by grace, and I think how fitting again that he uses five here. But those five things are going to be faith, love, hope, the wonderful fruit, and then finally again he brings in love, but it's love in the Spirit and that's going to be a special love, I don't know if we'll touch on tonight, but those are going to be the five things. So, let's get going in verse four here. It says, since we heard of your faith in Jesus Christ, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints, and we'll stop it there again. See faith, faith pleases God, it's impossible to please Him without that wondrous faith, and that's the faith that always is in Christ, and nothing else. See, the world preaches many faiths to us doesn't it. It says have faith in your job, it says to have faith in your relationships, doesn't it? It might say to have faith in money, and especially it says to have faith in is yourself. The word of God says that there is but one faith, and that's the faith in Jesus Christ. And I'm going to tell you something brothers and sisters is when we can get relief by the grace of God, our hearts directed in that faith, and that goldmine, and in that reward, it's going to be amazing the power of God that is going to dwell in our life; it is because it's all knowing. It's knowing like we said on Sunday again, knowing that He is.

25:18

That He is my salvation, that He is everything to me, that He is for me, that He loves me so, that He is always making intercession for me. You think about what the word of God tells you if you can really get into it and read this and believe the word, He's for you. He is so for us. It is so wondrous that His every thought, this great I Am, this creator of the universe is for me. That's how personal Jesus Christ needs to be to you, and if He's not that way, He's never going to be real like He wants to be in your life, it's not going to happen. Thank You Lord. But again, this faith is so precious.

26:03

And next is the love. This is the love that the word of God encourages us to have because faith without love is profitless just like we already mentioned, but faith beget in love is divine. It's God's own love in His Son, and faith love which is Christ's own love always loves all things. Did you hear me? How do we get faith? Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. What is faith love? It's love in that word, it's the truth in love, it's everything to us. And how is it shed abroad in our heart. Again, it's from the Holy Spirit, and who's going to lead us into all truth but the Holy Spirit? Hallelujah, it's laid out for us isn't it? It's a blueprint, it's not some sure it's called the mystery of Christ, but it's simplicity in Him when we just get into the scriptures, rightfully divide the word. Again,

and again, and again I say as I meet these different people and in love, not in anything that you're better than someone. I really have been burdened on my heart to encourage myself and others as well too, this is such a wonderful relationship, a wonderful dispensation revelation that we've been brought into. 27:30

Don't think you're better, or you just missed it. You did, it's love. You want people to come, you want people to take this. Love comes out, it's within and it comes out of you, because Jesus Christ, I'm just telling you, when you get Him in how can we but not but preach the word? How can we not but tell others about Jesus Christ. How could I not get up here and by the grace of God when Colossians is just screaming out the mystery of Christ and the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, how could we ever not by the grace of God touch on all of these things that Jesus wants us to be as man and wife with Him? That's the wonder and thank You Jesus, that He has given us that strength and stand, to stand for this wonderful truth. But again, love alone cannot love the unlovely, but it's going to take the faith love and that can, oh hallelujah, a mass of wealth that wins the throne. 28:28.

Now the last of these first three we have faith, we have love, and the next is hope in verse five. For the hope, which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, and this is such a wonderful verse. This is the hope of the exceeding riches of His grace in heaven, and again this is no ordinary hope, this is the hope of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus hope. We have the wonderful hope in Jesus Christ that this is the hope that Paul had to rule and to reign jointly with Jesus Christ. Is the truly our hope? I mean it, is that really our hope? Any more you speak with Christians and again it was like the man I was visiting with this week, they're not looking for the Lord to come. I think they acknowledge for the most part well when I die, I'll be with Jesus. I want to look for the Lord to come. I'm looking for that day, I'm looking for Him to catch me away, that's the bridal love guys. 29:30

It really is, when you're looking for Jesus in that way I really believe you're stepping into a bridal love for Jesus Christ because you know that He's coming. You know that He can't wait to get here, you know at this moment He would say God, can I go get them today? Can I go get my love today? That's our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, but that is the hope we're talking about here. And again, where did they get that hope? It's in one place, it's not in works, it's not ever going to be in good thoughts, it's not going to be in deeds, it's not going to be the enticing words, or prosper and be in health which is really what you're hearing today anymore in all these pulpits: no, it's not there. Where is it, it's in the word and it didn't stop there did it? It's in the word of the truth but it didn't stop there, did it? It's in the word of the truth of the gospel. Hallelujah. 30:30

And more specifically this is Paul's gospel like we've already touched on this evening. Now people will come in that don't understand it in some way, and they will say wait a second, are you worshipping Paul? No, we're not worshipping Paul, Paul is a brother in Christ; that's exactly what Paul is. Mary? Mary is a sister in Christ, that's what

Mary is, and that's a wonderful and awesome thing, don't get me wrong, okay? But by the grace of God, we can attain to the same calling of Paul which is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. And the word of God tells us to follow Paul as he followed Christ. I'd like to remind you again of Romans 2:16 if you would turn over there with me. I think it's good for you to read it instead of just quoting it. That's Romans 2:16, and there's many other verses we had a sermon not too long ago regarding this. In the day, and that day's coming when God is going to judge the secrets of men by Who? By Jesus Christ according to what? This is Paul speaking here to Paul's gospel. Something changed here, didn't it? Something changed, it's not that it changed, it's that it just got better. Do you understand what I'm saying? Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, but see something had to happen, and when Jesus Christ went to be with His wonderful Father the Holy Spirit came.

31:59

And He said now I'm going to tell you something guy, I don't want you panicking My disciple, but you know what, He's been with you, and He shall be in you. And when He comes into your life, then you can be led into all truth. That's what we have been given; that's what we have been given, and you're going to get power because it's going to come from above, and it's been around you, and it's been upon you, and now it's going to be in you. See, we have the power of defeating the enemy in our life. You realize that? You realize we have the power of the grace of God to be in the perfect will of God? The perfect will of God. That's a mighty statement, and I know we're sitting there going what, what in the world? There's no way I could be in the perfect will of God. Yes, you can, and by the grace of God if we'll step as we were talking about this week again this last Sunday, step in faith and say Lord I will go, He'll do that work in your life. He'll bring you the perfect will of God and He will.

33:00

And it's a promise. Again, we need to forget those things which are behind I don't care how good you been. I don't care in a sense how wonderful you followed the Lord yesterday, it's about today. See, God is bottled up all that, even a cold cup of water given in the name of a prophet got its reward, He's got it all down. He's forgot all that ugly sin; He can't even remember it anymore. It's a wonderful thing, but it's today, and today we can make that decision by the grace of God I want to serve You Lord. I want to please You; I want to get into the things that God is going to take me on in life. I want to grow up to be all pleasing in You. I want to magnify Jesus Christ in my life. Huh? You think we're going to go; I know we're a little weary tonight, but again this is what He's calling us to in this wonderful book of Colossians.

33:52

I'd also like to just remind you we're going to jump ahead a little bit but thinking of what Paul had been given. Look at chapter one here of Colossians and go on over with me to verse twenty-five. It says, whereof I am made a minister. This is Paul speaking of himself again; this is Colossians 1:25 whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation, or the revelation and as we read that the divine order, the divine arrangement. Do you remember that sermon? That dispensation means the divine arrangement of the ages. That's what Paul had been given. This is the same thing He's

talking about right here. It's a mystery of Christ. I'm getting ahead of myself by two verses, but you're going to see what we're talking about. But it said I am made a minister according to this dispensation of God which is given to me for you. It was given to Paul. How many times over and over do we have to realize, it was given to this man. God had great grace upon us, but it had to be given to somebody and it was given to him for me to fulfill what? The word of God, the complete plan; this had to be given. 35:06

Creation groans for the manifestation of the sons of God until he who hinders is taken out of the way, this thing ain't going to happen, and it ain't going to get started yet. You didn't realize how important you are, did you? I get excited about this. This is the real deal. Even the mystery, the mystery which has been hid from the ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints. Now think of what appeared to Abraham, think about what's been given to Moses, think about what Ruth saw, think about what Elijah had, think about what Elisha had; they didn't have this. It wasn't made manifest to them. I could read about this over and over and you know the word of God, you know that we're kind of dumb and lame; you better realize you are, and He has to encourage us over, and over, and over again, doesn't He? Hallelujah. 36:12

But it's now made manifest to His saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you; Christ in you. Had Christ been in these people? Sure he has, and sure He had but this is different, it's the hope of glory in you. And there's a lady that's got a glory and she's seen coming down from heaven, and her name is New Jerusalem, and it's real. She's the bride adorned for Him. Why me Lord? They don't want to hear doctrine, do they? It don't get the crowds, but I'm after seeing Him in a cloud, how about you? It will be worth it all, it's going to be so worth it. We may not be honored or praised by men very much, and sometimes ridiculed and thought stupid, but He's going to make known who He loved and make no doubt about that. You think when we get to heaven, we're going to look at each other and say I told you so? I told you so. I'm sorry, but I just love Him. Hallelujah. 38:28

I'm going to close with just a couple thoughts. I was thinking when Brother Hill had even said a couple times and had to laugh as I was thinking back over it, it's like baking an apple pie. You know you could leave out the crust what would you have? You could leave out the sugar, what would you have. You could add salt like Sister Hill did you'd have kind of an upset husband wouldn't you? That's what you'd have but never mind, but it wouldn't be complete would it? It wouldn't be right. Well, turn over to Colossians 4:12. Epaphras, who is *one* of you. Oh, this is getting to be deep, he's a servant of Christ. He salutes you. This is speaking to us; I hope you get this. Always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. This is what we're being invited into, this is what God can make of us. You understand there's no way that you could do this. I understand there's no way that I could attain to this complete, and perfect, and everything in all the will of God, It's not some of it, it's all of the will of God. 40:07

You see, that's the greatest thing about this, it's the grace of God. And I know because it's exceeding, abundantly above all we ask, or think isn't it sister? He didn't say I'm just going to let you have some of the will of God, I want you to have all the love of God, and I don't want you to just complete it, I want you to be perfect in it. I wish I could show you the hairs standing on the back of my head. I just marvel at this stuff as He just lets you read it. See, without a lining we're feeding our lives with all the word of truth of the gospel by His grace. If we don't do this, we're going to miss His best. It's going to be good, don't get me wrong, Jesus is good. Salvation is so good, but as we read in Hebrews he's talking about that complete salvation, completely set apart unto God. This is in quietness when he whispers to us that we would walk worthy of Him. Again, and this by his grace he's saying look Epaphras, he's one of you. I salute him, I sent him to you by the grace of God, and God sent both of us through His Son that we all may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God, and by His grace again that is only brought to us by Jesus Christ. Have to wonder. 41:48

Now see, that's why I get excited about Colossians, its correction, but it's encouraging. You see, a lot of people they get excited about the word criticism. Criticism can actually be a good thing; did you know that? It doesn't have to be negative; Paul is encouraging us here. He's setting the stage of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. He's bringing back as he brought out in Ephesians about the mystery of Christ. We're going to read by the grace of God it's about love. It's about the bond of perfectness which we've been preaching on by the grace of God in this meeting. It's the finishing touches. In chapter two again he's going to tell us, he's warning us beware of man's philosophy. I'm telling you, beware of what they're telling you out there. Search the scriptures to see if these things are so; it's prosper and be in health, it's get rich, it's pull yourself up by your own bootstraps. You got to be the man. I can tell you exactly what these psychiatrists are telling you. You know why? Because the word of God told me how many thousands of years ago this is exactly what they're going to tell you. 43:09

There's nothing new under the sun, man just puts a different spin on it, I hope you understand that, and that spin is so important because if you're in the world and you're going to be ruled by sin your life is just going to spin; you're never going to get out of that cycle. You won't do it; I'm just telling you. It may look different, you may commit to yourself its going to be different this time, I'll assure you'll wind up back in same place except you'll be deeper, and you can get yourself so far away from God as a Christian that you'll condemn yourself so that you don't think you can ever get back. Now God forbid we go there, God forbid we go there. 43:55

It's high calling time. He said I want all men to be saved, oh yeah, but this is full knowledge time, and you know what, you've had the privilege to be born in full knowledge time. Think you can say hallelujah and amen to that? Amen. Let's pray. Thank You Jesus again for bringing us together this evening. We thank You for the love of God in this place. We ask again that we would magnify You and You alone. We that you that Your Holy Spirit has anointed this word because by Your grace it's been brought in love. Help us to

be sincere in this, help us to be diligent in seeking Your best. Help us again to be as those wonderful Berian saints that we may even be encouraged to go home and to search the scriptures for our own. Encourage us in You and Your wonderful love in Jesus' name Amen.

44:51