

CONNECTION TO CHRIST JESUS

COLOSSIANS 1:4, 5

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Three main emphases of Christianity are faith, love, and hope. These determine the outcome of our battles. (**fn Colossians 1:4,5**)

IS BY FAITH, not faith in faith, but faith in Christ. ...“faith has no intrinsic value in itself. It must derive its value from its object.” R. Kent Hughes, Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ, page 17. The object of our faith is Christ. When we believe, we trust Christ not only for our life but also for our death. (**Colossians 1:4, fn 1:4, 5, Hebrews 11:6, Romans 1:17, fn 1:17[1st], Romans 4:4,5, fn 4:5, Romans 5:1, 2, fn 5:2-5**) *How could your faith grow?*

IS BY LOVE. “The tendency of any body of people is sooner or later to fly apart; love is the one bond that will hold them together in unbreakable fellowship.” William Barclay, The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, p. 159. “The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference.” Hunter Gray. It is by faith that we receive God’s love and then, by obedience, give it to others. (**Colossians 1:4, 5, Colossians 3:14, fn 3:14, I Peter 4:7, 8, I John 4:7-21, fn 4:12[2nd], fn 4:20,21**) *How could you help your family to know Christ’s love?*

IS BY HOPE. Faith, love, and hope are inseparably linked. “Hope is placed last because Paul saw faith and love springing from it... Paul tells us that the hope of the return of Christ and heavenly rewards makes a difference in how we live... We ought to cultivate our hope.” Hughes, pages 18, 19. (**Colossians 1:5, fn 1:5, Romans 5:1-5, Matthew 10:40-42, fn 10:42, Revelation 11:18, fn 11:18, Revelation 20:11-15, fn 20:14, I John 3:1-3**) *Why is hope vital to your faith?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.

