

“Don’t Move!”

We’ve heard the story too many times: a person who was once a believer has left the faith. In each case there is a story to be told. At times, the allure of the world draws disciples away (2 Tim. 4:10). Occasionally, there is a hurt or grievance needing to be properly aired. Regardless of the circumstances, the fact remains that a soul is in serious peril (Gal. 6:1-2; Jas. 5:19-20).

Colossians is written to Christians who were in danger of leaving their faith. Paul wrote to warn them not to be moved away from the hope of the Gospel (Col. 1:23). In Colossians chapter 1, consider five reasons why God says, “Don’t move!”

Because of the fruit (Col. 1:1-8) – The Gospel will always produce the same fruit when it is heard and obeyed. In the Colossian brethren, it had produced faith in Jesus, love for all the saints, and the hope of heaven (Col. 1:3-4). Paul wrote to tell them how thankful he was to hear of this fruit in their lives (Col. 1:4, 9). When we walk away from Christ and His Gospel, we walk away from fruitfulness, grace and truth itself (Col. 1:6). We also dishonor the work of those who have labored to teach us (Col. 1:7).

Because of the resources (Col. 1:9-12) – The Colossian brethren needed to stay connected to God because of the resources only available in Him. Paul prayed for them to be, “Filled with the knowledge of His will” (Col. 1:9). When we don’t know what to do, God shows us what’s best (cf. Jas. 1:5-8). Paul also prayed for their further fruitfulness, knowledge of God, and strength to be patient and longsuffering with joy (Col. 1:10-11). Those who depart from the Gospel lose access to resources that God alone can provide.

Because of the blessings (Col. 1:12-13) – One who moves away from Christ and the Gospel shows a lack of appreciation for three specific blessings God has already granted to us. First, He has qualified us to partake of the inheritance of the saints in the light (Col. 1:12). Next, He has delivered us from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13). Finally, He has conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love and given us redemption through His blood (Col. 1:13-14).

Because of the Savior (Col. 1:13-20) – A person who walks away from Christ may not be seriously appreciating just who He is. In a magnificent passage, Jesus is described as the “Image” of the invisible God (v.15), the Creator and Sustainer of all things (v.15b-17), the Head of the church (v.18) and the Firstborn from the dead (v.18). It is precisely because Jesus is all these things that He is uniquely qualified to bring us to God (Col. 1:19-20). When we move away from Him, we move away from our only real hope.

Because of the reconciliation (Col. 1:21-23) – When we depart from Christ and the Gospel, we are essentially saying that we want to go back and become enemies of God again (Col. 1:21). Christians who trust in Jesus for salvation are said to be holy, blameless, and above reproach in God’s sight (Col. 1:22). We have been reconciled to

God and have been made to be at peace with Him (Col. 1:20). The condition of remaining so reconciled is that we, “Continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast” (Col. 1:23).

When people are tempted to move away from God, we need to encourage them by reminding them of these inspired reasons to hold on to Him.

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