

July 20, 1994 Boston

The Most Important Teaching

The most important teaching is the following: FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE. Our faith has to increase — 1 Thes 3:10 and Heb 11:3 — and be made perfect, complete. What is lacking has to be made fully ready — repaired, prepared. Heb 11:3 — prepared is better rendered repaired (# 2675 in the Greek — to complete thoroughly, to repair, to perfectly join together, prepare, restore) and refers to the future restoration when God will make all things perfect in the eighth day. This is like it was in the past in the re-creation and restoration of Gen 1, which began in Gen 1:2. The eighth day will end all such need to restore; no more will anything need to "become a ruin" again, etc. The creation will be like us in our fully matured body — perfect.

We have to restore the brother who falls (Mt 4:21). Heb 13:21 makes you complete, Col 1:28, for every good work (Rev 19:7,8; Eph 2:10; 4:12; Col 1:10) and well pleasing (Eph 5:10 and 1 John 3:22) through our Master's name (John 17:11,12). Heb 13:21 means our spiritual, mental, emotional, social, and physical well being, a restoration of perfection and completion, just like Heb 11:3.

Complete

1 Thes 3:10 — 12 — Paul desired that we would have everything that is lacking in our faith, all that is necessary to bring us to completion in Messiah as fully developed sons of God, without reproach in love (Col 1:22,23,28,29). Complete — 2 Cor 13:9 (NKJV), like a net is repaired — Mt 4:21 and Heb 11:3. 2 Cor 13:9, Heb 13:21, Rev 3:2 — complete. *Complete* means to supply what is lacking; set in order; to arrange; equip; adjust; make fully ready — Rev 19:7,8; Col 1:28 — prepared, literally compatible, comparable. Col 1:29 is the working of the Spirit of God just as 2 Thes 2:9 is the working of the spirit of Satan. To fail to arrive at completeness in any one of these aspects mentioned above is to fail to be worthy of Him and is to fail to reach perfection (Rev 19:7,8 and Phil 2:15). To be prepared and ready is to be fully developed, Col 1:22, 23 — worthy of Him, Col 1:10, and fully pleasing to Him in all our aspects we live by in the Body — socially, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and physically — 1 Thes 5:23. To be complete is to be whole in spirit, soul, and body. It is to be blameless at His return for us, Rev 17:14. Only by being faithful to Him can we attain to Him, fully developed, worthy (Rev 3:4; Col 1:10).

Our faith should cause us to prosper in all ways — Ps 1. If we fail it is because we did not love Him enough to obey Him and to walk in the works prepared for us before the foundations of the world (Eph 2:10 and Rev 19:7,8). All works flow from faith — 1 Thes 1:3. 1 Thes 1:3 is the work of faith (Rom 12:3-8), the labor of love and the perseverance of hope (Rom 5:5; Rev 3:10) as we live in the sight of our God and Father. Faith, hope, and love — 1 Thes 5:8; Gal 5:5,6; 1 Cor 13:13; Col 1:4,5; Heb 10:22-24. This is how the first church failed to endure.

Complete is to fill up with no element lacking; it is to be free from deficiency. Col 2:10 is where we are positionally, and it is being worked out experientially as Acts 2:47 says, "being saved" (James 1:21; Rev 2:11; 3:4,5; Rev 3:10). *Complete* means brought to an end or to a final or intended condition. When the edifice is completed the work is accomplished — Col 1:28; Mal 3:1. Col 1:28,29 describes all apostles of Messiah. Heb 13:21 (1 Pet 5:10; Rev 3:2) — Make you complete in every good work to do His will. See Heb 13:15 (NKJV), the sacrifice of praise. It is like a sacrifice of your own body which is like the sacrifice of a sheep. You must want forgiveness more than your own flesh, pride, possessions, family, friends, and profession. Col 1:10, 3:12, etc., is now the process of being saved and fully developed to be made worthy experientially (Phil 2:12,15).

Preaching the Gospel

No gospel from any man can be effective to eternal life if it comes from error, uncleanness, or deceit, but must come from men who are approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel — so as to speak not pleasing men but God — who trusts their hearts. They are men who do not flatter, nor are they greedy, but God is the witness. Nor do they seek glory for themselves. They are gentle, as a nursing mother cherishes her children. Not only do they impart the gospel but they give their own lives as well — because the sheep are dear to them, 1 Thes 2:3-8. They reveal the glory and worth of Messiah (John 7:18 and 2 Cor 3:4).