

Lesson 3



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3

In Colossians 1:18, Paul refers to the church as a body with Christ as its head. He also asserts the same truth again in Colossians 1:24, “His body, which is the church”. The idea of a body carries the understanding of something alive and not an inanimate object. Each Christian has been “born again” into a “living hope” (1 Peter 1:3) and collectively we make up the church, Christ’s body. The scriptures are also clear that God appointed Christ as the Head of this body, the church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and put all in subjection under Him. According to Colossians 1:21-22, in the body of Christ we are holy, blameless, above reproach. As a body we are nourished, knit together, and growing. The full Godhead dwells in Jesus with us as members. We are not our own! We are part of this most powerful, wonderful, healthy, important and pre-eminent body in all of creation! What a great, secure hope we have as part of the body of Christ!

PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK QUESTIONS: (See page ii on how to submit answers in advance)

What are some of the benefits you have personally received from being part of a local church?

I. KNOW. What do the scriptures say?

A. MANY MEMBERS, BUT ONE BODY – HOPE FROM BEING UNITED

Read [Colossians 1:13, 18, 21-22, 2:19](#); [1 Corinthians 12:12-20](#); [Ephesians 1:22-23](#)

1. Who has placed us in the Body?
2. What are some truths about the Body found in these verses?
3. What is the meaning of the phrase, “the fullness of Him who fills all in all”? (Eph. 1:23)

B. CHRIST IS OUR HEAD – HOPE FROM OUR LEADER

Read [Colossians 1:15-17](#), [2:9-12](#); [Hebrews 6:19-20](#)

1. What are some truths about our Head found in these verses?
2. What attributes does the imagery of an anchor present? How do these apply to the hope we have in Christ?

C. GROWING AND FUNCTIONING – SECURING OUR HOPE

Read [Colossians 2:6-7](#), [Ephesians 4:15-16](#), [1 Corinthians 15:58](#), [1 Peter 5:6-7](#)

1. What words in Colossians 2:7 convey security?
2. What are some of the actions or responsibilities listed in these verses for the members of the Lord's body?

II. FEEL. What is my response?

- A. Do I find living in the body, or church of Christ a burden or blessing, a shame or salvation, an embarrassment or excitement?
- B. Is there any greater head than our HEAD, Christ? How does that make you feel?
- C. Hope (or lack of) is contagious! Am I feeling hopeful, sharing hope, or killing hope? What indicates this rise or fall of hope?

III. DO. What action(s) will I take?