



## PART 2: THANKFUL FOR THE FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL

### Sermon Notes

Text: Colossians 1:3-8

#### Intro:

The Colossian Christians' new faith was in danger of being choked out by "weeds." Paul urged maturity, using the metaphor of being "rooted" in Christ.

Paul stresses everything he is thankful for based on the report of Epaphras.

#### 1. We always thank God...when we pray for you." v. 3

Thankfulness is a theme of Colossians.

Philippians 4:6 - pray with thanksgiving

We should be thankful to God *before* he answers our prayers, as a way to submit the results to his wisdom.

#### 2. ...Because of faith, love & hope v. 4-6

Faith, love and hope (see 1 Corinthians 13:13) are Christian virtues, or characteristics, which develop in those who are "in Christ"

It wasn't unusual for Paul to make these kinds of virtue lists (see also Galatians 5)

Faith - the living environment for those who are "in Christ"

Love - extending beyond affinity to all of God's people.

Hope - based on the firm and trustworthy promises of God.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Colossians 2:6-7

Hebrews 6:19

Hope, like a root system, or an anchor, firmly connects us to Jesus in heaven even while we live in earth.

#### 3. The fruit of the gospel v. 6

Matthew 13:23

Genesis - God created with his word, and commanded fruitfulness

"God is doing through the gospel what he always intended to do. He is sowing good seed in the world, and preparing to reap a harvest of human lives recreated to reflect his glory" ~N.T. Wright

The gospel is God's delivery method for the re-creation of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"The gospel message is the grand news about how God's coming kingdom has been glimpsed and opened up to a sinful world in the birth, teaching, miracles, death, and resurrection of God's Son, the Messiah, who will one day return to overthrow evil and consummate the kingdom for eternity" ~John Dickson

#### Conclusion:

Romans 1:16

2. When is the last time you shared the gospel with someone? What is stopping you? Pray for opportunities and the boldness to share.

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Have you ever had a moment of “irrational inspiration?”

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23). What does this parable mean? How does it relate to Paul’s letter to the Colossians? What can we learn from the farmer? How can we ensure the “soil” of our own heart is good soil, able to produce a crop?
2. Read Hebrews 6:13-20 & Hebrews 10:19-25. What do these passages say about hope? What is our hope based on? How does hope for tomorrow turn into action for today (according to these passages).
3. Read Galatians 5:13-24. The fruit of the Spirit passage is a famous one that outlines the character of Christ that is formed in us by the work of the Holy Spirit. This is additional “fruit of the gospel.”
  - Paul does a good job in this passage outline two ways of life. What are the characteristics of each? What is the key to experiencing spiritual fruit rather than gratifying the flesh?
  - What does it mean to “keep in step with the Spirit”?

### Application:

1. Consider the content of your most recent prayers. Are they full of thankfulness? How will you be more thankful in your prayers this week?

### Prayer:

1. Thank God for the fruit of the gospel.
2. Other Requests
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