

I. The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Colosse

*map showing Colosse

*picture of Colosse

- A. They are set apart to belong to God
- B. They are called to be faithful to Christ
- C. They are members of God’s family

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” (Colossians 3:15)

- D. They are living in a relationship with Christ
- E. They are recipients of God’s grace

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” (Ephesians 1:7-8)

- F. They are recipients of God’s peace

II. The Apostle Paul prays a prayer of thankfulness for the church

- A. He is thankful for their faith in Christ Jesus

- 1. They believed that Jesus is God
- 2. They believed that Jesus is the Christ

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

- 3. Their faith in Christ was clearly known

- B. He is thankful for their love for others

- 1. They showed genuine love for other believers

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (I John 4:7-8)

- 2. They had love inspired by the Holy Spirit

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:5)

- C. He is thankful for their hope in Christ

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)

1. Their faith and love were fueled by their hope in the gospel

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (I Peter 1:3)

2. Their hope is absolutely secure in heaven

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews (6:19)

- D. He is thankful for the dynamic power of the gospel

1. The church was experiencing spiritual fruit
2. The church was experiencing numerical growth
3. The church was sharing the gospel of grace with the world

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)