



Grace Life Church

of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Colossians 1:3-5a

Thanksgiving in Faith, Hope & Love

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version (unless noted)

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Colossians 1:3-8

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

Colossians 1:3-8

6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

When we pray for you-This is the context (Paul's prayer)

- Paul was a man of prayer (More importantly Jesus was a man of prayer)
- If we examined our prayer life alone, what conclusion would we come to regarding our relationship with God?
- Our understanding of God and our right standing with Him in Christ has a direct impact on our prayer life (or lack thereof)

We always thank God (Significant)

- Paul is praying for the Colossians but he is thanking God
- *God-the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 - Paul refers to Jesus as the Christ and as the Lord
 - **Acts 2:36** *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus:

- Why is Paul thanking God for the Colossians faith?
- Because genuine saving faith is given by God to us in the new birth
- The impact of original sin in Adam (our representative)
 - We are guilty & condemned in Adam (Rom 5)
 - We are born in sin, spiritually dead and depraved (Ps 51:5, Eph 2:1-3, Gen 6:5, Rom 3:10-18, 1 Cor 2:14)
- **John 3:3** *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
- **John 6:44** *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.*
- **1 John 5:1** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God (cause and effect)*
- **Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Paul not only thanks God for the faith of the saints at Colossae but he also thanks God for “*the love that you have for all the saints*”

In thanking God in prayer for their love Paul reveals two truths:

- An evidence you have been born again and your faith is genuine saving faith is your love for the people of God
- The origin of our love for one another is from God

Genuine saving faith is always coupled with love for the saints

1 John 2:9 *Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light*

John 13:35 *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*

The origin of our love for one another is from God

1 John 4:7 *Beloved let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God*

1 John 3:16 *By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The church's love of the saints originated in God, revealed by God sending His Son to die for us, & it's poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit (Rm 5:5)

- As born again Christians, we are new creations in Christ (2 Cor 5:17), but we are still tempted to be selfish (not loving)

Speaking about their love for all the saints “*Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven*”

- Here Paul ties their expressed love for the saints to their hope
- What is hope? Verse says it is “*laid up for you in heaven*”
- **1 Peter 1:3-5**
- What Paul is saying is this: knowing the hope reserved for you in heaven and believing this, produces love towards the saints
- If we know our future is secure, we are free to lay down this life
- Having hope (in God's promises) empowers us to sacrifice the present for the assured future
- **Romans 8:18** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All throughout Scripture we see faith, hope and love as defining for the true believer (1 Thess 1:2-5)

1 Corinthians 13:13 *So now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love*

Have **faith** in God and His Word, place your **hope** in Jesus Christ and what He has secured for you in His finished work, and give your life to **love** and serve the church (and the lost world)

And in all this, give God praise & thanksgiving for all that He has done

To God be the glory, great things He has done