

“The Fruit of the Gospel”

New Hope Community Church

April 15th, 2018

Colossians 1:3-8

Life Group Meeting

Colossians 1:3-8

QUESTIONS

A. The Gospel Is Bearing Fruit Throughout the World (6)

1. Paul in prison is concerned about the Great Commission

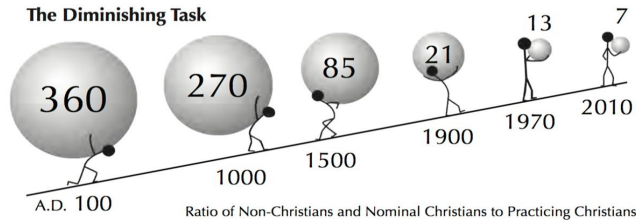
- He is thankful that the **gospel** has come to them
- The gospel they received was the grace of God in **truth**

2. From prison, does Paul fear the failure of the Great Commission?

- The Great Commission was issued by Jesus around **30 AD**
- Paul is writing this letter approximately **30 years later**
- The Emperor Nero began **Christian persecution** in 64 AD

3. Paul is confident the gospel is **advancing** everywhere it touches

The following taken from Frontier Ventures web site —



► Response: As a disciple of Jesus, how committed am I to participate in the Great Commission? Involved ___ Hesitant ___ Uninvolved ___

B. The Gospel Is Bearing Fruit In the Colossian Christians (6)

1. Paul is excited that something is **growing** in the believers

- Epaphras, servant of Christ, **brought** His message to them
- Paul, Timothy, & Epaphras **labor** in pray for them
- Paul **writes** helpful instruction for them

2. Paul identifies three main elements of **fruit** in the believers

- **Faith** in Christ Jesus (4a) *Key passage: Hb 11:6 / I Jn 5:4
 - (1) This is the process of growing to **know** Christ
 - (2) And changing from following our **ways** to His ways
- **Love** for all the saints (4b) *Key passage: Jn 13:34,35 / I Jn 4:7-21
 - (1) This is the process of **Christ's** love growing in us
 - (2) And beginning to love one another **as** He loved us
- **Hope** laid up for you in heaven (5a) *Key: Ro 8:24,25 / Hb 6:9-20
 - (1) This is the process of gaining an **eternal** perspective
 - (2) That **anchors** our soul in the tribulations on earth

► Response: Is the Gospel continually bearing fruit in my life —

- Faith: Am I following His ways more completely? _____
- Love: Am I learning to love others as He loved? _____
- Hope: Am I living more for heavenly treasure? _____

1. Read Colossians 1:3-8

2. What is the Great Commission? Where do you find it in Scripture?

3. Review together the components of the Gospel message. Someone in the group volunteer to present the Gospel to another person in the group, or everyone pair up and one person in each pair share the Gospel with the other.

4. Have you had the opportunity to lead someone to Christ? Share the experience you had with the group.

5. From looking at the chart on the opposite page, “The Diminishing Task”, does this change any impression you might have had about the advance of the Gospel in the world? Does it motivate you to want to take part in the Great Commission that Jesus gave us?

6. Making disciples of Jesus involves several steps, as seen in this passage. Someone **shares** the Gospel, others **pray** for the new believers, others **teach** and **encourage** them to follow Jesus. Often new believers are not discipled. Who has discipled you? Who are you discipling (this does not have to be a “formal” process).

7. We talk a lot about the word “faith”. John tells us in I Jn 5:4 that “this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.” Discuss how this actually works in every day life — our faith overcoming the evil world system that we live in.

8. Scripture tells us that the “hope set before us” is an anchor of the soul. How important of a role does eternal hope play in your life on a day to day basis? Share examples with one another.