

## Thanking God for Faith, Hope & Love in YOU!

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 1:3-14

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### Believers are marked by Thankfulness & Prayer

- Paul understood God's sovereignty in salvation: thanks God, not people Ac 16:14
- Always Pray before evangelizing (lost around you!) Is 63:1; 2 Thes 3:1; Philem 6
- Believers are to be thankful & prayerful – not grumbling! 3, 9-12; 2:7; 3:15-17:4:2
- How do you respond to life? Thankfulness & prayer OR Grumbling  
Replace Grumbling with thankfulness & prayer

### Believers are marked by Faith, Hope & Love

Paul gives thanks for Triad of Christian Virtue: Faith, Love & Hope: 1 Cor 13:13; 1 Thess 1:3, 5:8; Rom 5:1-5; Gal 5:5; Eph 1:15,18; 4:2-5; Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:22-24

1. Believers have FAITH in Christ Jesus & the Gospel Truth 4-5
  - Word of Truth = Gospel. Faith comes by Word Rom 10:17
  - Gospel = Good News Lk 2:10
    - Bad News – all are sinners, we stand condemned before God without a Savior Is 59:2; Rom 3:23
    - Good News – God sent Jesus to be our Savior that we receive by believing in Christ's work for us. John 1:29; 3:16-18; Act 16:31
  - Gospel is Word of Truth – not just emotion – it bears fruit!  
we worship in Spirit & Truth which may produce emotion 1:5-6
2. Believers have a LOVE for all the Saints 4-5
  - "Faith & Love" often linked as genuine proof of conversion: Gal 5:6; Eph 1:15; 1 Thess 1:3; 3:6; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:14; 2 Tim 1:13; Philem 5
  - God's gift of faith (Eph 2:8) always produces Love as a distinguishing mark of a Christian: John 13:34-35; 1 Cor 3:16; Rm 8:9; Col 1:8
  - DOES Love define your life? What would others (spouse co-workers) say? Does self-love or love-for-others define you?
  - Fleishy stuff: Gal 5:19-21 VS. Love=1<sup>st</sup> fruit of Spirit Gal 5:22
  - Love in action: 1 Cor 13:4-7 does this describe you?
  - We are called to Love like Christ did: Eph 5:1-2
  - the Gospel is more than intellectual assent (Jms 2:19) but love in action (Jn 13:34-35 powered by the Spirit (Col 1:8)
3. Believers strengthened by the HOPE laid up in Heaven 4-5
  - Without the Gospel, what hope is there? Heb 9:27-28
  - Our hope of heaven should motivate us NOW
  - Spirit is our deposit & strength: Eph 1:14; 2 Tim 1:14; Col 1:8
  - Always trouble in Fallen world, Jesus promised: John 15:18-20
  - PRAY ALWAYS FOR SELF & BROTHERS: Col 1:9-14

### Discuss & Apply:

- What are the practical applications of the fact that God is sovereign in salvation as it concerns prayer? What should that look like in your life and the life of our church? What can you (we) do different? Better?
- What is the danger of creating an emotional response in evangelizing versus presenting the simple truths of the Gospel? When the Gospel is received can there be an emotional response?
- Is your life marked by Grumbling or by Thankfulness & Prayer? What would those closest to you say?
- What are some practical strategies to help you stop grumbling and become thankful and prayerful? Think: put off, put on...
- Look up the references to the Triad of Christian Virtue: 1 Cor 13:13; 1 Thess 1:3, 5:8; Rom 5:1-5; Gal 5:5; Eph 1:15,18; 4:2-5; Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:22-24. What is the context and setting of each? What do you learn?
- What is the Bad News and the Good News of Saving Faith? Can you give the Gospel without the Bad News?
- Other "faiths" (Jehovah Witness, Mormon, etc.) have faith. So the difference between a Jehovah Witness and a true Christian is not faith but the content or object of that faith. What are the implications of that truth?
- Faith & love are linked as genuine proofs of conversion: Gal 5:6; Eph 1:15; 1 Thess 1:3; 3:6; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:14; 2 Tim 1:13; Philem 5. What does that look like in your life and in the life of our church? Does love define your life? Why or why not?
- How does understanding the difference between fleshy stuff (Gal 5:19-21) vs. Love as the 1<sup>st</sup> Fruit of the Spirit help?
- Memorize 1 Cor 13:4-7 and then meditate on what love in action looks and feels like on a day-to-day basis.
- How would you describe the 'Hope laid up in heaven'? How should that motivate you NOW?
- Jesus reminded us we would have trouble like Him Jn 15:18-20. How does that help and strengthen you?

Study & Prepare: The Colossians were young believers, but Paul expects them to hear or read his letter and then put it into practice. Get an audio copy MP3 copy of Colossians (Google it or visit [www.bible.is](http://www.bible.is) and download the app or listen) and listen to this book. Read it several times (it is only 4 chapters!).