GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Colossians 1:1-8
Introduction

Colossians – The Supremacy of Christ

Background information:

- Colosse is located in Asia Minor (Turkey) about 100 miles east of Ephesus.
- It was a small town in Paul’s day, near Laodicea and Hierapolis.
- The church was started by Epaphras. Verse 7
- Paul was in prison in Rome (AD 62) when he wrote this letter.
- Paul wrote to them as an Apostle of Christ Jesus.
- Paul begins this letter by giving thanks to God for the health of the church and the advance of the gospel.

I. Give thanks for the health of the church. Colossians 1:3-5

What are the marks of a healthy church?
- Growing in Faith – in our commitment to Jesus Christ.
A Willow Creek study discovered that how people describe their relationship with Jesus Christ is the most telling thing about them spiritually.

**Exploring Christ** — “I believe in God, but I am not sure about Jesus Christ. My faith is not a significant part of my life.”

**Growing in Christ** — “I believe in Jesus and I am working on what it means to know and follow him.”

**Close to Christ** — “Jesus is an important part of my life. I depend on him daily for guidance and I seek to live for him.”

**Christ Centered** — “My relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life. It guides everything I do.”

They were a healthy church, but they were under attack.

Paul wrote to affirm the absolute supremacy of Christ.

He is Lord and His Word is truth.

**II. Give thanks for the advance of the gospel. Colossians 1:6-8**

Wherever the gospel is heard and obeyed it bears fruit.

What a joy it is to hear and be a part of what God is doing around the world.

**Conclusion**

Would you pray that our church would grow?

- In our faith in Jesus
- In our love for one another
- In our hope in the promises of God’s Word.
Conclusion

Would you pray for the advance of the gospel all over the world?