

“Hope that Bears Fruit”
Colossians 1:3-8

I. What Paul is thanking God for...

- A. The initial and ongoing faith of the Colossians
- B. Their love for all of God’s people

II. Paul’s thanksgivings and the theme of the Colossians’ completeness ...

- A. The Gospel of Jesus (and nothing else) already was producing fruit:
 - 1. In Colossae (Col. 1:4).
 - 2. Around the world (Col. 1:6).
 - 3. In Ephras (Col. 1:7).
- B. Such fruit was evidence that the claims of the false teachers were wrong.
- C. Nothing more was needed; the Colossians were already complete in Christ.

III. Application...

- A. How is our church known? How are we known?
 - 1. For our faith?
 - 2. For our love for the saints?
- B. The key to ensure we could be known for such things is our hope in what is already laid up for us in the Heavens (Col. 1:5):
 - 1. Certainty that Christ is promised to us and reserved for us.
 - 2. Certainty that His glorious inheritance is promised to us and reserved for us.
 - 3. Hope in such things strengthens our faith in Jesus and enables us to forget about ourselves and bless others.