“A Prayer of Thanksgiving To God Because of the Gospel”

Colossians 1:3-8 Sunday September 17, 2023

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 1:1-30

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ For All Explained Chapter One Supremacy Over All He Is Lord of Creation and Lord of the Church

 Christianity Centered in Christ

“His designation of the Saviour as “Christ Jesus” (the reading of the leading manuscripts) may be understood as a deliberate effort to emphasize at the very outset the present exalted position of the risen Lord over against a system of thought which tended to rob Him of His full majesty. Paul does not use the name Jesus alone in this letter.” Harrison

1. A Prayer of Thanksgiving To God for This Church
2. Character of This Prayer of Thanksgiving 1:3 Christian Prayer

 “We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .”

 “ . . . praying always for you . . .” cf. 1:9-12; 4:12

 “we always give thanks when we pray for you”

a pattern of praying for the churches in the epistles from Paul

parallel in Philemon 4-5 being one who prays for others to the Father

 being those who others will pray about to the Father

Christian prayer to God, the Father of the Son cf. Colossians 3:17

 [the One who is our Lord] Jesus Christ

1. Reason For This Prayer of Thanksgiving 1:4-5 Christian Character

“since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus . . .” cf. 1:2; 2:1, 5

 “. . . and the love which you have for all the saints . . .”

 “. . . because of the hope laid up for you in heaven . . .” cf. 3:1-4

 of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel

because of their actual hope there is the place of faith and presence of love

confident expectation so present reality of faith & personal responsibility of love

“the Colossian Christians are assured everything in their hope is kept for them in the safe and right place in heaven that hope which is centered in Christ Himself”

relationship of these three Christian elements because of Christ Jesus

relationship of these three Christian features in Christ Jesus

remember the words of Jesus to His disciples in John chapters 13-16

 cf. John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17

1. Source For This Prayer of Thanksgiving 1:6-8 Christian Ministry

 The Gospel Present With Them 1:6a

 “the word of truth, the gospel, which has come to you . . .”

“it is still present among them. The gospel which they heard, which has brought hope to them, it is still present among them . . .”

 The Gospel Bearing Fruit in Them 1:6b

 just as in all the world also

 it is constantly bearing fruit and multiplying,

 The Gospel Heard and Understood by Them 1:6c

 just as *it has been doing* in you also

 since the day you heard and understood

 the grace of God in truth;

 The Gospel Brought and Taught To Them 1:7-8

 just as you learned *it* from Epaphras,

 “to acquire information as the result of instruction”

 “to learn, to be instructed, to be taught.’

 our beloved fellow slave,

 who is a faithful servant of Christ . . .

 who also informed us . . .

CONCLUSION A Prayer of Thanksgiving To God Because of the Gospel

Christianity Centered in Christ Christian Prayer . . . Character . . . Ministry

* Increasing prayers of thanksgiving to God because we are Christians
* Emphasize the Christian life with Christ in the center so that others are giving thanks to God for His work in you in their prayers
* Being a church where the Gospel is bearing fruit in our life together
* Showing we are those who heard & understood the grace of God in truth
* Serve Christ bringing and teaching the Gospel to others because of Christ