

# GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Colossians 1:1-8

## Introduction





*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.”

- Growing in Love – in our commitment to one another.

If our faith is genuine it will change the way we live.

- Growing in Hope – in our confidence in the promises of God’s Word.

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?