

Paul's Motivation for Praying for the Colossians (Col 1:3-8)

- Consider the motivation Paul gives for his prayer for the Colossians
- This prayer give us something of a window into Paul's heart for prayer
- The text begins with standard salutation & prayer of thanksgiving
- Paul's prayer of thanksgiving: focus on fruit of the Gospel in their lives

I. Paul thanks God for Gospel fruit in their lives: Faith, Love & Hope

- Colossian church was planted by Paul's co-laborer Epaphras (Acts 19)
- Paul's thankfulness bound up with prayer: pray, give thanks & asking
- Paul prayed to "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" – One God.
- "Though Jesus Christ" Jesus is the only way to this One God & Father
- Paul thanked God for their Faith, hope & love - Christian maturity

II. Paul thanked God for the Power of the Gospel: fruit in the world

- The Colossians had believed "the Word of the truth the Gospel"
- It is the same Gospel that was bearing fruit throughout the world
- Paul's emphasis, the **Gospel** & not the messenger that produced fruit
- His focus is specifically on the person & the work of Jesus Christ

III. Paul thanked God: Fellow Servants, Faithful Ministers of the

Gospel of Jesus Christ on your Behalf

- Paul also seeks to encourage the Colossians' affection for Epaphras
- He thanks God for a faithful brother, his testimony of the Colossians
- They were growing in love toward one another through the Holy Spirit