

Colossians 1:3-8
A Prayer of Thanks

Our prayer for You ...

I. We Thank God

- A. For Your Faith
- B. For Your Hope
- C. For Your Love

II. The Gospel is At Work in You

- A. The Word of Truth
- B. Brought by Faithful Servants
- C. Heard & Believed

III. And Here's How We Know It

- A. Your Lives are Changed
- B. You Love the Lord
- C. You Love God's People

... is based on a great report.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does Paul see in the life of the Christians that makes him thankful?
2. How did the people he is writing to hear about Jesus?
3. We should always thank the Lord for the way He works in our lives, but we can also thank Him for the way He works in other people's lives too. Can you think of something to thank God for that He has done for someone you know?

A Call for Thanks

Believers have a lot to be thankful for – our very lives are to be thank offerings to the Lord. Expressing thanks is an integral part of prayer. You probably have a long list of items that you regularly thank the Lord for, and then, when you start to dig deeper, you keep finding more items to add. If it's not there already, add to your list thanks for the things you see God doing in other people's lives. Hear a report about someone coming to faith in Jesus for the first time? Join with the angels and heaven and rejoice! See a saint exercising gifts or showing mercy? Give glory to God. See a young believer growing in spiritual maturity? An ailing child of God facing tremendous trials with peace and assurance? Thank Jesus. In other words, whenever you see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in the life of others, give thanks. Paul sets a great example for us in the prayer he records in his letter to the church at Colossae (as he does in other letters as well). He had heard about their faith in Christ and their love for others and he rejoiced in the presence of the Lord for His handiwork. Paul was not shy to encourage them in their faith or their works, but he knew that the source of such grace in the life of the church was God Himself. Observe what the Lord is doing in the saints around you, listen to reports of the power of the Gospel at work in the world, and give thanks to the Lord!