



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Colossians 1.3-8

Open with Prayer:

Christ-centered “Gospel Movement” Summary:

Key Question: “Is Christ moving to us, or through us?”

- **Colossians 1.3-8** shows that when Christ moves to us in the gospel, He also means to move through us. Paul rejoices in their faith, love, and hope because the gospel is not static information but living grace that bears fruit and increases.
- **Colossians 1.6** reminds us to look for *inward* transformation and *outward* spread,
- **Colossians 1.7** shows that God advances the gospel through faithful people like Epaphras.
- **Challenge:** We need to ask the Spirit to turn us from consumers into conductors, so the gospel does not stop with us *but* moves outward into our relationships and community.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Observation:** What words or phrases does Paul repeat or emphasize in Colossians 1.3-8, and what do they reveal about what mattered most to him?
2. **Thanksgiving:** Paul begins with gratitude in Colossians 1.3. Why do you think thanksgiving is a powerful starting point for spiritual growth and for correcting a church’s direction?
3. **Faith and Love:** In Colossians 1.4 Paul celebrates “faith in Christ Jesus” and “love...for all the saints.” What is the difference between faith as agreement and faith as lived trust, and how does love make faith visible?
4. **Hope:** Colossians 1.5 connects hope in heaven to faith and love. How does eternal hope practically reshape your priorities, schedule, spending, and willingness to be inconvenienced for others?
5. **Gospel Definition:** In one sentence, how would you define the gospel in a way that includes both what Christ has done for us and what Christ intends to do through us? How does your definition match Colossians 1.5-6?

6. **Fruit and Increase:** Paul says the gospel is “bearing fruit and increasing” in Colossians 1.6. What “fruit” should we expect to see in a believer and in a church, and what might it look like for the gospel to “increase” through us?
7. **Honest Diagnostic:** The sermon asked, “*Is Christ moving to us, or through us?*” Where are you most tempted to become a consumer of ministry rather than a conduit of mission, and what might repentance look like without shame?
8. **Epaphras the Carrier:** According to Colossians 1.7, the Colossians learned the gospel through Epaphras. What does his example teach us about how God normally spreads the gospel, and what is one way you could become a “carrier” in February?
9. **Love in the Spirit and Communion:** Paul hears about their “love in the Spirit” in Colossians 1.8. As we take communion, how does remembering Christ’s body and blood re-center us and re-send us outward toward the lost?

Key Takeaways:

- **The gospel is** the good news that Jesus died and rose to forgive and reconcile us to God, and He intends that grace to flow through us as we proclaim Him and make new disciples.
- **When Christ is** at the center, the gospel produces faith, love, and hope that becomes visible. Colossians 1.4-5
- **A normal expectation** of real gospel reception is “bearing fruit and increasing.” Colossians 1.6
- **God often moves** the gospel through ordinary messengers like Epaphras. Colossians 1.7
- “*Is Christ moving to us, or through us?*” is both a comfort and a corrective for a church tempted to turn inward.

This Week:

- **One name:** Pray daily for one person who does not know Christ.
- **One step:** Take one outward step (invite, serve, share your story, offer prayer, read Scripture together).
- **One prayer:** “Jesus, be at the center. Let the gospel bear fruit and increase through me.” Colossians 1.6