

## GRATITUDE FOR THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

### INTRODUCTION

What do potatoes have to do with the gospel?

The gospel is presented as a powerful and fruitful seed for which Paul is deeply grateful as he contemplates its fruits in the lives of the brethren in Colossae.

In **Colossians 1:3-8** we find **3 reasons** for gratitude related to the gospel that we should be able to identify and express in our own lives.

1. Gratitude for the Fruit of the Gospel (3–5a)
2. Gratitude for the Power of the Gospel (5b–6)
3. Gratitude for the Faithfulness to the Gospel (7–8)

### GRATITUDE FOR THE FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL (3–5A)

When you develop a mentality of constant prayer, you will develop a mentality of constant gratitude. We impoverish ourselves spiritually when we fail to constantly contemplate in prayer the experience of the grace of God in our lives and in the lives of others.

“faith in Christ Jesus”

the vertical dimension

“love...for all the saints”

the horizontal dimension

“hope...in heaven”

hope personified (Colossians 3:1–3)

### **GRATITUDE FOR THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL (5B–6)**

the power of the gospel perceived by its content

“the word of truth”

1 Peter 1:3–6

Colossians 1:23

“the grace of God in truth”

the power of the gospel perceived by its reach

### **GRATITUDE FOR THE FAITHFULNESS TO THE GOSPEL (7–8)**

Epaphras’s faithfulness

Epaphras’s care

“Sincere, specific, non-flattering encouragement is the life of unity in a church. A church may be fully orthodox, but failing to encourage is like opening a door to the devil and inviting him to create and foster division. Encouragement shuts that door.” *Dane Ortlund*

### **CONCLUSION**

Responding to false doctrine and exposing theological error is important. But Paul first invites us to look to our own lives, to the lives of our brothers and sisters, and to be attentive to God’s work around the world, so that we can perceive how much we have to be grateful to God for and how much is at stake if we embrace false doctrine.

There is no region on the planet, no culture, no language, no opposition, no obstacle, that can prevent the gospel from bearing fruit and thriving.