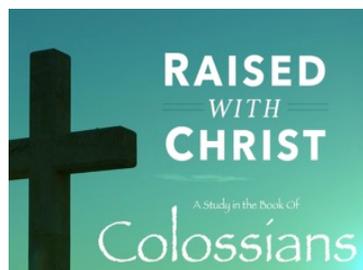


“Raised with Christ!”

Part 1: “The fruit of the Gospel”

Colossians 1:1-14



Introduction: When people hear the Gospel and respond in faith there is always fruit!

The history of the Church is the unfolding of God's plan in the lives of His people.

Hearing and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ makes your life about GOD!

The fruit of the Gospel produces thanksgiving to God the Father and prayers for more fruit that flows from giving thanks!

I. The fruit of the Gospel leads to thanksgiving to God the Father: Verses 3-8 ...

Verse 3: “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you ...”

The Gospel produces the fruit of “faith in Christ Jesus” (vs. 4).

“GRACE” is unique to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:16-17: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for ... in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith.”

The Gospel produces the fruit of “love for all the saints” (vs. 4).

The Gospel produces the fruit of “hope” that comes from “the Word of truth, the Gospel ...” (vs. 5).

THIS faith, THIS love and THIS hope are produced ONLY by THIS Gospel ... the Gospel of God's GRACE in Christ Jesus!!!!

When you see the fruit of the Gospel in the lives of believers you THANK GOD!!!!

II. The fruit of the Gospel leads to prayer for continued spiritual growth: Verses 9-10 ...

Verse 9: “... asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding ...”

Verse 10: “... to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

II Timothy 3:14-17: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (vss. 16-17).

You will always have a hard time trusting God and obeying God if you don't KNOW God!

Those who pursued spiritual growth were willing and able to endure suffering, trials and persecution, rejoicing in God and giving Him glory.

II Peter 1:3-4, 10: “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us ... be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election ...”

I Thessalonians 5:16-18, 23-24: “... He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it!” (I John 5:14-15)

III. The fruit of the Gospel produces more fruit that leads to more thanksgiving: Verses 11-14 ...

Verse 11: “May you be strengthened with all power ... for all endurance and patience with joy ...”

Verses 12-14: “... giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints ...” (vs. 12).

Ephesians 1:13-14: “In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him ... were sealed with the Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance ...”

I Peter 1:3-9: “... He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ ... to an inheritance ... kept in heaven for you ...” (vss. 3-4).