

# **“An Eruption of Thanksgiving”**

Colossians 1:3-8 ↔ *September 10, 2006*

“Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.”

**C.S. Lewis**

## **◆ Where do we struggle?**

1. *We lack a grateful, prayerful vision of God's kingdom.*
2. *We fail to appreciate the riches of salvation in Jesus.*

## **1. The Gospel is Received by Faith! (3-4a)**

## **2. The Gospel Overflows in Love! (4b)**

## **3. The Gospel is Anchored in Hope! (5)**

## **4. The Gospel Reaches the World! (6a)**

## **5. The Gospel Produces Fruit! (6b)**

## **6. The Gospel is Rooted in Grace! (6c)**

## **7. The Gospel is Spread by People! (7-8)**

## **◆ Gospel Applications:**

1. Is Jesus the object or source of your Faith?
2. Is your Love for others evident?
3. Does your Faith and Love rest on a heavenly Hope?

## **Paraphrase of Colossians 1:3-8 by Murray Harris:**

“Whenever we pray for you, without fail we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because we have heard of your faith as those who are in Christ Jesus and also of the love you show toward all God’s people. Both of these qualities are stimulated by the hope that is reserved for you in heaven. You came to hear about this hope previously when you heard the message that has the stamp of truth on it – the message that is the good news that has come to you. In the same way this gospel continues to produce throughout the whole world the same kind of harvest and increase it has been yielding in you from the very first day that you heard about and came to appreciate God’s undeserved favor for what it truly is. That was the way you learned it from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow slave, who has been faithfully serving Christ as our representative. It was he, in fact, who informed us of your love – love that is produced by God’s Spirit.”

