

The All Sufficiency of Christ  
Colossians  
Lesson #2 – Col. 1:3-8

I. Introduction

- A. Do heavenly bodies have influence over our lives?
- B. Is there any relationship between diet and spiritual living?
- C. Do the Eastern religions have something to offer evangelical Christianity?
- D. These contemporary questions were ones Paul dealt with in 60 A.D.
- E. Christ had a place but the supreme place in their worship
  - 1. He affirmed truth and did not debate error
  - 2. He set forth the exalted nature and unmatched glory of Christ

II. The Good Report

- A. The Character of the prayer (v.3)
  - 1. Directed to God with thanksgiving
  - 2. God is the source of the virtues of the people
  - 3. God is the source of the success of ministry
- B. The Reasons for the Prayer (v.4-8)
  - 1. Good report (v.4)
    - a. Faith – in the person and work of Christ
    - b. Love – is the fruit and proof of saving faith
    - c. Hope – a confident expectation of what is to come
      - 1) Stored up treasure – to be enjoyed later
      - 2) Hearing the Word of Truth (v.6) – bears fruit
  - 2. Gospel Power (v.6)
    - a. Growing and Bearing Fruit
    - b. Grace of God

3. Good Work of Epaphras
  - a. Dear Servant
  - b. Faithful Minister
  - c. Communicated Love

### **Colossians 1:3-8 (New International Version)**

#### **Thanksgiving and Prayer**

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— <sup>5</sup>the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. <sup>7</sup>You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our<sup>[a]</sup> behalf, <sup>8</sup>and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.