**Introducing Colossians**

Col. 1:1-9 “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.”

Paul begin his letter to this church with a regard for what they are successful in. This congregation of God’s people has a faith in Christ Jesus, a love … for all the saints, and a hope laid up … in heaven. Remembering what Paul said to the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 13:13 *13But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love*), we see the Spiritual gifts that are lasting gifts are reflected in this group of Christians. As a congregation, they have become known for their faith or belief in Christ Jesus. A love is depicted among this group in regards towards one another and all Christians (*It is always a wonderful thing to visit a congregation or encounter brethren who truly love their fellow family members in the household of God*).

Additionally, because they are participating in the Faith and Love they are supposed to have, there is also an expectation that has been given to them. They have Hope. This Hope was preached to them and comes directly from the Gospel. The Gospel, the good news, *the power of God to salvation* (Rm. 1:16), it does and should compel HOPE in a Christian’s life. The knowledge God has given us through, and about His Son should provide encouragement, confidence, and strength in the world. There is a place prepared, a salvation waiting for those who are the followers of God. This is a part of the message of God in Christ and one we should not forget. Paul even points out to the Christians the Gospel is “is bearing fruit and increasing.” That Bearing of fruit is exactly what the church at Colossae had done. The Gospel had born fruit among them and was increasing.

Christians today can look to the Colossian letter and recognize truths:

1. **Faith Hope, and Love can be ours, and that is part of the Gospel.**
2. **The Gospel will always bear fruit and increase**

Christians must recognize what causes growth, and how growth comes – through the GOSPEL. The church at Colossae was not perfect, but they did have a good foundation they could use in their service to God.