**Col. 1:3-5
Principles of a Thankful Heart**

Intro

**I. THANKSGIVING IS A PRIORITY.**

A. The priority of giving thanks to God in the NT:

***1Th. 5:18*** *in* ***everything*** *give thanks; for this is God?s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

***Heb. 13:15*** *Through Him then, let us* ***continually*** *offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.*

***Eph. 5:20******always giving thanks for all things*** *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*

B. Notice how often Paul makes reference to or exhorts them to a thankful heart in this letter alone - Col. 1:12; 3:15-17; 4:2.

**II. THANKSGIVING FOR OTHERS BUILDS THEM UP.**

A. These are uplifting words. He expresses his **confidence** and assurance to them that God?s grace is evident in their lives.

B. Note how Paul says it, "I thank God for . . ." --- **this diffuses all pride** because the credit goes to God.

**III. THANKSGIVING FOR WHAT?**

Paul is not only **God-centered** by the way he gave thanks to God so often, but he is also **other-centered.** What kind of blessings does Paul have in mind? **Paul is thanking God for gospel fruit.**

"Since we heard " (v. 4) indicates that the following are the reasons for Paul?s thanksgiving to God.

A. **FAITH** **in Christ Jesus** -

1) Christ is the theme of the Bible.

2) Faith in Christ saves.

B. **LOVE** for the all the saints.

1) This is one of the manifestations of saving faith.

2) It is evidence of the new birth. **1John 3:14**

3) love is active.

C. **HOPE** laid up for you in heaven, thus, the **hope of glory**, cf. Col. 1:23, 27.

1) faith and love are vitally connected to our **hope** of glory.

1John 3:2-3

1Pet. 1:13

Rom. 8:18

2Cor. 4:16-17

2) our hope of glory should be a dominant focus of our life, cf. **Col. 3:1-4**; Heb. 12:1-2; 1 Jn. 3:2-3; Rom. 8:23; 1 Pet. 1:13.

3) How did they hear about this hope?

*An important theological observation -*

**CONCLUSION**